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WEDNESDAY MARCH 24 1999

DOUBLE TOKENS Extra time to boost BODK 2 your total pages 24,30,37



EASY MONEY Anne Ashworth's new personal finance guide

page 17

BRUCE CHATWIN Sexual bait thrown into the art world

PLUS inter/face: How to go clubbing ... but stay at home

Nato sends in the bombers

Serbs facing attack as talks fail

By Michael Evans DEFENCE EDITOR

NATO was preparing last night for massive missile strikes on Yugoslavia as part of what could be the largest military operation in Nato's

50-year history.
After the failure of the lastminute talks in Belgrade between President Milosevic and the American envoy Richard Holbrooke, warships and aircraft armed with cruise missiles were given a countdown for the first phase of the air-strikes, and 350 Nato planes were ready for widescale

Although the Serb Parlia-ment in Belgrade gave the first indication that it might consider an international peace force in Kosovo, the Yugoslav leader's refusal to end the current wave of oppression, appeared to seal the country's fate. Yugoslavia last night declared a

state of emergency, With President Clipton giv ing the strongest indication had already been given. Yevge-ni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, cancelled his planned trip to Washington. Russia remained bitterly op-

posed to bombing. Mr Clinton said the US should pray for the pilots who would be facing imminent danger and prepared his country for likely casualties. In an impassioned speech to local government workers, he compared the Serb assault on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo to Nazi atrocities and asked how

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A B52 homber secured behind the wire at RAF Fairford, where it was on standby for action over Kosovo after the collapse of peace talks yesterday

saved "if people had listened to Churchill and stood up to Hitler earlier

"Nato is united and prepared to carry out its warning, If President Milosevic is not prepared to make peace, then we are willing to limit his ability to make war on the Koso-vars," he said. Tony Blair also made an om-

mous statement. "We have no alternative but to act and act we will, unless Milosevic even now chooses the path of peace," he said. The aim of airstrikes would be to stop the Serb forces from their violent oppression in Kosovo, which was driving thousands from their homes. Only military ac-

manitarian catastrophe". After his failed talks with Mr Milosevic, Mr Holbrookesaid the Yugoslav leader fully understood the potential consequences of his refusal to sign a peace settlement. The situation was "the bleakest since we began this effort almost four years ago", he said. Mr Milose-vic had "not wished to discuss either a ceasefire or a Nato-led

force in a serious manner. He predicted, however, that Mr Milosevic had misjudged the effects of his defiance: "History, not today's headlines, will record the full consequences of what happened today."

As Mr Holbrooke left to brief Nato ambassadors in

What happens if bombing does not work? That question summed up the complicated divisions at Westminster: outrage. apprehension, uncertainty?

Brussels about the meeting, departing Yugoslav diplomats claimed that any war with Nato could drag Albania into the conflict.

They also predicted future

- Peter Riddell, page 6

the Former Yugoslav Republic

of Macedonia, which closed its

border with Serbia yesterday.

as thousands of Albanians at-

conflict between Serbia and

tempted to flee south. There are 12,000 Nato troops in Macedonia and there were fears Family's £3m

A family of nine faked car crashes and disability in a plot to claim £3 million in damages and benefits. They gathered about £500,000 be-fore an insurance company became suspicious.... Page 3

£1,000 fine for bus lane abuse

Motorists who block bus lanes will be fined up to £1,000 in a campaign to improve services. Cameras will be installed on buses and at roadsides to record offending drivers

Beloff dies

Lord Beloff, the professor of government who became a leading light of the Thatcherite New Right, has died Leading article...... Page 21

could become ta for Serb retaliation.

However, Mr Blair said that if Nato took no action and the oppression of Kosovo were allowed to continue, the Serbs would have no restraints on their actions. "The consequences of that would be absolutely devastating," he said.

His stance won broad support from both Opposition par-ties, although William Hague sought assurances that no ground troops would be used. In Rome, the Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini gave Italian

senators explicit details of Nato's bombing plans. The first strikes on Serbian and Yugoslav military targets would come from warships, he said.

inere would inen de a pa followed by airstrikes which

would "wipe out" the Serb mili-

tary capability to operate in Last night Serbs who have been living under the almost constant threat of airstrikes for the past six months, were at last succumbing to a bout of panic shopping, with most stores reporting shortages of

staples and canned products.

Additional reporting by Ben Macintyre, Tom Walker, Roland Watson and Ian Drugs money link, page 4

Serb offensive, page 5 MPs divide, page 6 Simon Jenkins, page 20

IRA killers to go free as

Belgrade calls up vital 'Dads Army'

FROM TOM WALKER

HUNDREDS of thousands of men under 58 — a veritable Serb "Dad's Army" — were ordered to mobilise by President Milosevic of Yugoslavia yesterday, part of his final preparations for a war with Nato.

The move could bolster that regular fighting strength of 114,000 to nearly a million men under arms, more than the country had during its war with Croatia. However, widespread desertion makes it un-

likely that figure will be met. The call up came as the Serb leader tightened his grip over the military by sacking Alexan-der Dimitrievic, the army's head of intelligence and inter-nal security. He was replaced by an ethnic Hungarian loyal to the Milosevic regime, Lieu-

tenant General Geza Farkas. Western military observers called the army competent by Balkan standards, but "in a fourth division" compared to Nato. In Belgrade last night the few diplomats remaining cked their dags and admit ted the general's dismissal confirmed their worst fears for



Law lords' ruling set to boost Pinochet's hopes

By Frances GIBB AND JOANNA BALE

GENERAL Pinochet's bid for freedom will receive a major boost today when the highest court in the land rules that he cannot be made to stand trial for crimes of murder and torture allegedly committed before 1988.

At the same time the seven law lords are expected to rule by five to two that he has no immunity from prosecution for crimes after that date. Their two-part ruling will ef-

fectively wipe out all but three of 30 specimen charges submitted by the Spanish Government which is seeking the former dictator's extradition, although it still leaves some crimes of murder and torture to be answered for.

It will also pave the way for ered at 2pm. the general's lawyers to

launch a legal challenge to the decision by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, last December to authorise extradition

proceedings.
Such a decision would mean the former dictator languishing for at least several more months in his rented mansion in Wentworth, Surrey, where he is under house arrest, as his

lawyers seek to block extradi-tion proceedings on the

strength of the new ruling. But yesterday his supporters were taking steps in anticipation of an even more optimistic outcome: the general's airforce jet is due to land today at RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, just hours before the 200-page judgment is deliv-

The crew would have plenty

of time to refuel and restock with fresh food in the event thought unlikely - that a decision went completely in the general's favour and he is held

to be immune from extradition In that event, lawyers would have to go through the lengthy reasons given by each of the law lords — and then return to Bow Street magistrates' court to have bail conditions lifted. But the law lords' ruling is not expected to remove the

threat of extradition altogeth-Rather it is likely to pave the way for fresh legal actions, with General Pinocher's lawyers launching an immediate judicial review of the decision by the Home Secretary to give Continued on page 2

fraud plot Straw loses in court

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent JACK STRAWS attempt to

block the release of four IRA terrorists backfired last night. Thomas Quigley, Paul Kavanagh and Gerard McDonnell, who had all been jailed for their parts in bombing campaigns in England, were expected to walk free late last night after a judge rejected Mr Straw's efforts to stop their re-

Two dozen Sinn Fein protesters had gathered outside Belfast's High Court as the Home Office began its efforts to overturn Monday's decision by the independent Sentence Review Commission that the three should be released yesterday. and Patrick Magee, the Brighton bomber, in June."

Mr Justice Paul Girvan rejected the commissioners' plea for more time to prepare their case, but ruled that the Home Office lawyers had until midnight to persuade him. and if necessary an appeals court, that the Commissioners were wrong. If they failed the trio would immediately be freed and in the end, the judge

threw out Mr Straw's case. Gerry Adams had earlier denounced the Home Secretary's intervention as a "vindictive and petty and stupid", saying it would cause deep anger. The Irish Government also expressed surprise and demand-ed clarification from London. Urgent efforts to break the deadlock over IRA disarmament before next week's deadline made no headway at all, and a small bomb planted by

a loyalist splinter group in Cas-

tlewellan. Co Down, added to the deepening pessimism.

David Trimble met Mr Adams but said he no longer saw any sign of the flexibility the Sinn Fein president promised in Washington last week. "We heard yet again a simple reiteration of their position." Decommissioning was "not something they can't do but some-thing the Republican move-

ment won't do". Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, declared: "It' s impossible to get the IRA to do anything in relation to a gesture, timetabling or sheduling against a back-ground of the messing around we have seen over the course of the last 10 months."

Leading article, page 21

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BRITISH AIRWAYS The world's favourite airline

Blair's trumpet call echoes with an uncertain sound

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

s the Good Book says, "if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?" Yesterday's parliamentary fanfare for a Nato attack on Serbia struck a ragged note.

That had not been the Prime Minister's hope. Tony's trumpet was certain. His statement was clear and bold, read almost lipsmackingly slowly. But from all around came ...

silence. A couple of feeble early cheers petered out. Even at his peroration ("I hope the House will join me ...) the

cheers never reached more than 4 on the Richter Hear-Hear scale. Tories sat on their hands. What could this mean? Grim sobriety? "Not an occasion for jingoism", etc? Some backbenchers were, it is true. gravely resolute.

But others simply doubted. The unsettled mood emerged as MPs rose to question Blair. The Tory leader led the confusion, for it was hard to know quite what William Hague meant. After a tedious rakingover the past, he seemed to - almost as an aside

 that the Government would not have Tory support for a ground attack. Surprised whispers rustled across both

Liberal Democrats are now the War Party. A portenious Menzies Campbell called this "a bad business which could turn out to be a bloody one" and seemed rather in favour of it. He thought ground troops might be necessary. Blair had no comment on that.

Labour's Donald Anderson

(chairman of the Foreign Af-

ed to know about ground attack too. Blair had no comment beyond remarking that the difficulty was that "up to

100,000 might be needed. Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, tried again, Still no comment - but Blair now thought it "possible" that "more than 100,000" might be needed. Michael

Francis Maude, the Shadow

that black was white."

Mr Brown came under fire

at yesterday's select committee

from David Ruffley, the Tory

MP for Bury St Edmunds and

a former adviser to Kenneth

Clarke, who said the Chancel-

lor's treatment of the issues

was "dishonest". Mr Ruffley

used figures from the House of

Commons library to argue

that the Budget would in-crease taxes by £100 million

Following the exchanges,

the committee asked Mr

Brown to respond to its points

A Treasury spokesman said:

over the next three years.

in writing.

be reduced tax bills."

Colvin (C. Romsey) thought the figure twice that. The

Prime Minister now agreed it would be more than 100,000 Unsettling to watch a Prime

Minister virtually declaring war, his estimates of troop numbers rising according to the last person he has spoken to, flanked on one side by Robloopy expression, on the other a scowling John Prescott yelling: "What would you do? Just sit and watch the murders on telly?" Now Blair was parrying questions about troops with an insistence that bombing alone would do the trick.

Some Labour MPs backed him. Walsall seems solid for war: David Winnick (Walsali N), a sort of socialist Empire Loyalist, squeaked aggres-sion; Bruce George (Walsall S) wanted guarantees for Macedonia, too. Others too - a

majority — were for bombing. But by no means all. Tony Benn and Tam Dalyell's doubts came as no surprise: Kevin McNamara and Alice Mahon were less expected deseriers from the on-message battalion. Mrs Mahon's voice trembled - though whether in fear of the Serbs or the

white was unclear. Almost every Tory wanted the answer to McNamara's what if bombing fails? They thought Milosevic (who, like Hitler, has now lost his "Mr" at Westminster) could only be

which most opposed. The rage of Sir Peter Tapsell (Louth, Horncastle) was magnificent. If this was Sir Peter's precautionary word, what will his I Told You So be like?

Soon after Blair had spoken, his Press Secretary, Alastair Campbell, left our gallery to give a briefing. Virtually the entire press corps rushed out. Gadarene in their pursuit. Forsaking Parliament they went (as ever) whither they thought the power had gone. They could just be wrong.

Brown faces inquiry over 'fiddled' figures

Roland Watson and Alasdair Murray on claims of a misleading Budget

POINTS OF CONTENTION

Five other things the Chancellor did not make clear in his

2 Omitted to mention the end of tax relief for maintenance

3 Claimed pensioner couples could claim up to £15,000 pa tax

free. Accountants, however, believe that this figure is based on

such a complex set of allowances and income levels that no

4 Suggested pensioners will benefit from the 10o tax reform.

of the income comes from savings, which will continue to be

5 There is a year's gap between the abolition of the married

couple's allowance and the introduction of the children's tax

But few pensioners actually pay tax and for those who do much

1 Failed to mention the abolition of the 20p tax band.

payments for the children of a broken marriage.

taxed at the savings rate of 20p.

credit, which went unexplained.

THE Treasury select committee is to investigate claims that Gordon Brown misled voters about the impact of the Budget by ignoring the abolition of mortgage interest tax relief in his overall figures.

The cross-party committee asked Mr Brown to reply in writing after he was accused of evading the issue during a heated appearance before the group of MPs yesterday.

The Chancellor rejected charges that he had "fiddled" the Budget figures to allow him to trumpet a tax-raising package as one that saved money for households.

But opposition parties seized on independent figures that suggest the Budget will raise taxes by £100 million over three years rather than cut it by £4.5 billion, as repeatedly asserted by both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor. The Tories are likely to return to the issue at question time today when John Prescon, the Deputy Prime Minister, will be standing in for Mr Blair, who is at the Berlin EU

At the heart of the argument is a complex dispute over the accountancy treatment of two of Mr Brown's major Budget reforms in recent years, the abolition of Mortgage Interest Rate Relief (Miras) and the introduction of the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC). Mr Brown's assertion that the Budget will reduce net taxes by £4.5 million only stands up if the WFTC is treated as a reduction in tax. The Office for National Statistics has ruled that it should instead be treated as £1.5 billion worth of higher government social spending because it is effectively replacing the old Family Credit. Mr

Brown, though, has ignored the office. He is also claiming that the abolition of Miras should be treated as a reduction in public spending rather than a £2.75 billion tax increase. Although this accountancy treatement is in line with European standards, it goes against Mr Brown's practice in Opposi-tion of including the previous

Budget speech

government's limiting of Miras in his lists of "22 Tory tax

The opposition leapt on the accounting details, turning Mr Brown's taunting of the previous Tory government back on him. Both the Tories and Liberal Democrats said that voters would never be able to trust the Chancellor on tax again, a line borrowed di-rectly from Mr Brown when he was Shadow Chancellor. Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal

Democrat spokesman, said To try to pretend today that further cuts in mortgage tax re-lief are not tax rises is beyond

Mr Bruce said that yester-

day's revelations were "inconsistent, dishonest and cyni-cal. This latest abuse of statistics is a spin too far. It shows just how far this government is prepared to go to mislead people about taxation," Chancellor, accused both Mr Brown and Mr Blair of having lied about the effect of the Budget, adding that the Chan-cellor had "added insult to injury" by ducking questions from Mr Maude said: "Gordon Brown's contempt for Parliament, not to mention taxpayers. knows no bounds. Even faced with unequivocal proof that taxes are rising, he swore

Crosses with the names of Chile's 'disappeared' at Parliament Square yesterday

Continued from page I the go-ahead to extradition proceedings. They will also renew their fight against extradition when proceedings begin at Bow Street. A date may be set on April 6, the next date on which the general is due to re-turn for a bail hearing.

"The key point is that we are Critical to the law lords' latputting £6 billion into the econest ruling is thought to be argu-ment not aired before the previomy, and £4 billion of that will

Pinochet

ous panel of five - on the definition of an extradition crime. The question is whether the crimes alleged were extraditable in law and whether the crimes have to be ones that are extraditable at the time they were committed both in the foreign country and the request-ing state as General Pinochet's lawyers argued; or whether, as the Spanish Government and the Crown Prosecution Service argued, it was enough for the crime to be one which is now extraditable in the requesting state.

It could be autumn before formal committal proceedings start at Bow Street

NEWS IN BRIEF MPs join campaign for elected

chamber

Tony Blair was given a blunt warning yesterday by almost a third of all backbenchers, including 60 Labour MPs, that he should scrap plans to fill a reformed House of Lords

with appointees. In a rare display of crosspar-ty action, 131 MPs backed a Commons motion demanding that the second chamber

be elected by the people. The Government gave a strong hint in its Lords reform White Paper in January that ministers wanted a largely nominated second chamber with a small indirectly elected element. The Royal Commission on Lords reform today publishes a consultation paper of possible options for reform and start taking evi-

dence. The campaign is being or-ganised by Andrew Tyrie, Tory MP for Chichester, and Mark Fisher, (Lab. Stoke Central, and Charles Kennedy, the Liberal Democrat leadership contender.

Cot deaths link

More than 100 cot deaths a year are caused by passive smoking, according to a campaign. A Gallup survey, for the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, found that only 7 per cent of those questioned linked smoking to cot deaths and only 25 per cent thought it affected children's bealth. The poll of 2,000 people is the start of a campaign, "Smoking: Give up for Kids".

Labour protest

Election candidates for La bour's ruling national execu-tive could be blocked from running if they complain to the press about the way the hallot is conducted. A code of conduct approved by a majori-ty of the NEC yesterday in-cludes a new complaints procedure under which candidates are expected to refer any protest about the election; not protest in public.

Tessa's sex talk

Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, blamed many adults' immature attitude towards sex for Britain having the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Europe. She told the Family Planning Association's annual conference in London: "We confuse them with mixed messages about sex. They could be forgiven for not knowing clearly if sex is supposed to be

compulsory or illegal." Bus-trap girl dies

A girl aged 14 died after her ing doors of a bus in Peterbor-ough. Sarah Nelson, a pupil at the city's Stanground Col-leges, suffered head injuries as she was dragged along the ground for a few feet. The driver and five passengers were treated for severe shock. Police believe that a cord from the girl's coat may have be-

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Disgraced Racist police face ex-MP accused of smears

By MARK INGLEFIELD POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR'S attempts to conceal bitter splits in its Newark party were hindered yesterday by fresh criticism of Fiona Jones, the disgraced ex-MP.
As the National Executive Committee suspended the lo-

cal party after Jones's conviction for electoral fraud, one of her former local rivals called for a further investigation of Gill Dawn, the former leader of Newark and Sherwood District Council, claimed that Jones instigated a smear cam-

paign against her to detract from her own troubles. She told The Times yesterday that the regional party needed shutting down and then furnigating" because of its failure to investigate Jones. "There should be a thorough investigation to look at why the complaints against Flona Jones were ignored," she said.

for comment. Her appeal against conviction should be heard next month, with the byelection expected on May 6.

sack in move to fight prejudice By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT POLICE officers found to have

used racist language or behav-iour face dismissal from the service as part of the Government's drive to implement most of the 70 recommendations in the Stephen Lawrence

Jack Straw unveiled a 38-page action plan yesterday and said: "We know we must deliver real practical change. The focus of this plan is main-ly about improvements in policing, because that was the focus of the inquiry, but progress on policing must be part of a wider context."

He promised a series of speeches from ministers during the next few months in which they will outline how they plan to build an anti-racist society. While accepting most of the

proposals made by Sir Wil-liam Macpherson of Cluny's inquiry, Mr Straw made clear Jones, 42, was unavailable that the Government had serious reservations about key proposals and advised caution on several others. But he said that the Race Relations Act will be

reformed in the next session of Parliament to bring the police under race discrimination laws. He also promised a feasibility study into setting up a fully independent complaints system to investigate allega-

tions against the police. But the Home Secretary moved to defuse the most controversial aspects of the report by Sir William. The action plan said that the Government had "serious reservations" about the proposal to make it a criminal offence to utter racist comments in private.

Mr Straw rejected the plan to make schools publish league tables of the number of racist incidents in the class-

Sir William, who chaired the inquiry and wrote the re-port, said: "I'm very happy with the way in which the plan will take forward the recommendations set out in our re-port. The overall aim is the elimination of prejudice and disadvantage and the demon-stration of fairness in all of pol-

IRA prisoners' longest day

Martin Fletcher on the four men

whose release was challenged

THOMAS QUIGLEY, Paul Kavanagh and Gerard Mc-Donnell have between them served more than 15,000 days in prison for IRA terrorist of-fences, but not one as long as

The trio should have been free men by mid-morning. Instead they and their families waited well into the evening while Home Office lawyers sought to persuade a Belfast court that they should be derained for another 16 months. For a fourth prisoner, the Brighton bomber Patrick Magee, the hearing would determine whether he was released in June or in 16 months' time.

Sinn Fein representatives in

the court sent out regular up-

dates by mobile telephone,

and it was a day of excruciat-

ing tension for the prisoners.

but then there would be little sympathy for them back in England where they were sent in the 1980s to bomb and mur-

Maigee, 48, is the most notorious. It was he in 1984 who planted the bomb in Room 629 of Brighton's Grand Hotel that 24 days later nearly killed Margaret Thatcher and much of her Cabinet. He was given eight life sentences in 1986 and the judge at his trial labelled him a "man of exceptional cruelty and inhumanity

Kavanagh and Quigley. both aged 43 and from republican families in West Belfast, were each given five life sentences in 1985 for a bombing campaign in London in 1981 that killed at least three peo-

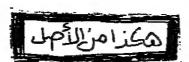
They were responsible for the Chelsea Barracks nail bomb which killed two passers-by, a 59-year-old widow and a male teenager, and for an explosion in an Oxford Street Wimpy bar that killed a bomb disposal officer.

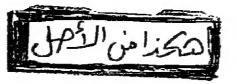
They were also convicted of causing explosions at Debenhams in Oxford Street, and at the home in Wimbledon, South London, of Sir Michael Havers, then the Attorney-

as Mr Justice McCowan passed sentence. He told them: "You showed not a spark of compassion for these people. You cannot therefore be surprised if society thinks you are not lit to be at liberty for a very long time to come." He set their tariffs - minimum terms — at 35 years which David Waddington, the then Home Secretary, increased to 50.

McDonnell, 49, and a cousin of Gerry Adams, was convicted with Magee in 1986 for his part in an IRA plot to bomb a dozen English seaside

He escaped from the Maze in 1983, was recaptured two years later, and subsequently received £3,108 in compensation for property damaged in the aftermath of the escape.





Fake injuries that cost the state a fortune were revealed when insurers became suspicious







that thousands of pounds

could be generated by staging accidents. Thenceforward, fa-

mily members threw them-

selves into the paths of cars driven by relatives, the court was told. The only independ-

ent witness was often a rela-

The fraud began to unravel when the suspicious insurance

company employed investiga-tors who watched Ahmed. Po-

lice then seized the videos.

The trial was frequently stopped to allow nappies worn by Zulfigar, which he said he wore for incontinence caused

by his injuries, to be changed

He stooped in the dock, his life

apparently ruined. But, said

prosecutors, the videos show-

ed it was a sham. He had re-

ceived an interim payment of

£47,000 from the compensa-

had been confused with a rela-

tive, an illegal immigrant who

Also before the court were Mohammed Sharif's other

sons, Arif, 27, and Abid, 21, and his other daughters. Parveen Sharif. 30, and Yasmin Sarwar, 24. His sons-in-law

Abdul Raschid, 31, and Sian Ahmed, 43, were also found guilty of conspiracy to de-fraud Another son in-law, Mo-

hammed Ramzan, 36, was ac-Mrs Justice Steel told the family that they faced jail. Addressing Mohammed Sharif,

who was remanded pending sentence, she said: "I have no hesitation in thinking you will seek to manipulate the sentencing procedure either by illness

real or fake - or attempting

The court heard that Arif claimed to be mentally subnormal, claiming more than £150 week in benefit, but ran a suc-

cessful retail business, called The family was helped by the apparent willingness of the medical authorities to accept

their injuries, the court heard. Other members of the family, who also received payments: are believed to have

Speaking after the case, one of the police officers involved said: "They are a collection of fakes, prepared to act out any

illness, incapacity or accident

in their greed for money." It is believed that at least seven

fled to Pakistan.

to leave the country.

had fled to Pakistan.

The family claimed Zulfiqar

tive who used a false name.









£3m plot by the family that 'lived on fraud

BY ADRIAN LEE

MEWS IN BRIEF
MPS join
campaign
for elected

chamber

NINE members of the same family faked car crashes and serious disability as part of an elaborate plot to claim £3 million from insurance compa-

nies and benefits agencies. For years, Zulfiqar Sharii and his sister Razia Ahmed were said to be in persistent vegetative states. He claimed £1.75 million compensation for a street attack. She sought £450,000 from an insurance company after a road accident."

Home videos showed them leading normal lives. Ahmed, 24, was filmed walking out of a hospital proudly carrying her new baby. Her brother, 28 who was filmed driving and running down the street.

Preston Crown Court heard that the crimes of their father, Mohammed Sharif, 57, and his relatives, from Preston and Blackburn, had been traced by investigators over almost two decades. They defrauded insurance companies, benefit agencies and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. They are conservatively estimated £500,000 before an insurance company stopped them.

According to the prosecu-



Zulfigar Sharif: filmed while working out

and almost the entire family

were involved. As sentencing was adjourned for four weeks, it was calculated that the bill for the trial would reach £2.75 million. Some of the defendants claim-ed legal aid towards the 18 bar-risters involved in the case.

The Sharif family owns 13 properties in Lancashire and runs two profitable general stores, the court heard. After police began arrests, £211,000 was transferred from British

FAMILY FORTUNES: WHO CLAIMED WHAT

has been claiming disability living allylleting (1335-401) bledig, in-come support (£755-43) and housing benefit. Seried the fice pris-on sentence for part in aron living to \$40,000 virsualities claim, ZULFIGAR SHARIF, 25. Mehanment's 500, he view claiming disa-bitly living allowance (£50.40), income support (£63,30) and hous-ing benefit (£50). Received insertin payment of £47,000 fibrir Crim-nat lighting Compensation Board after being attackar in street at

age of 15. Outstanding clarin of more than ELS million.

ARID SPARIE, 21: structure son, claiming invalid care silowance (£36,00) for toolding after elder brother, and holising benefit (£50).

ARID SPARIE, 27: another son, who was claiming disability allowance (£32,40), housing benefit (£50) and incapability allowance (£32,40), housing benefit (£50) and incapability allowance.

(£74.05) relating to car crash.

RAZIA AHNED, 28: daughter of Mobammed and a mother of four, was claiming disability allowance (£45.30), prospecity allowance (£83.95) and flousing benefit (£50). Caracteldent insurance claim of £450.000 magered investigation into family.

PARMEEN SHARIF. 30: another daughter, was claiming disability.

PARMEEN SHARIF, 30; another daughter, was claiming disability allowance (£68.85), pricising beautif (£50), and indepents, along an or (£128.55) relating to car accident in which are just incode down by another family member. Received insurance payment believed to be £22.000.

YASHIN SARIWAR, 25; abother daughter, was referring housin benefit (£50), disability about the (£39.90) and incapacity benefit (£1.17.40) after road accident in which father was three.

ARDIJ RASCHID, 31; son-in-law or Molighinged, was eleming disability allowance (£79.35) after car accident, housing benefit (£50), and income support (£68.30). Made unsuccestiff, insu (£50) and income support (£68,30); Made unsucce

SIAN ARMIED, 43, son-in-law, was received. (£74.05) and housing benefit (£50).



Zulfiqar Sharif being helped away from the court by a friend. He claimed he was wheelchair-bound

Tougher check on benefit cheats

By ALEXANDRA FREAN SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to crack down on cheats who

use dead people's national insurance numbers to claim state benefits. Computer checks will also be introduced to detect people whose national in-

both on company payrolls and on benefit claim forms. Alistair Darling, the Social Security Secretary, unveiled the measures yesterday in a new document, A New Contract for Welfare Safeguarding Social Se-curity, that aims to reduce the estimated £2 billion to £5 billion worth of fraudulent or incorrect benefit

surance numbers appear

claims made each year. Procedures are to be introduced to check new activity on dormant national insurance accounts. There is also to be stricter security surrounding the issuing of new national insurance numbers and the weeding out of old numbers. Officials will demand proof of and will accept only originals of documents such as birth certificates.The changes follow research showing that more than

one in five national insurance numbers in use may

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We've broken the mould.

Sawoniuk Woman smoked in walkout joint as river threat over SS claim

By TIM JONES

SHAKING with rage, the pensioner accused of war crimes threatened to storm out of the witness box yesterday as he was questioned about his almembership of the

Anthony Sawoniuk told Sir John Nutting, QC, for the pros-ecution: "It is nonsense. Don't ask me about the German army or I am going." His outburst came as Sir

John questioned him over a German army document that purported to show be had been a member of the Waffen Border SS in 1944. "I hate the Germans and I hate the Russians. They are the people who destroyed the Polish population," Mr Sawoniuk said.

Earlier, asked whether ten days after the September 1942 massacre of 2,900 Jews in Domachevo, Belarus, he had killed children, he said: "Absolute lies. I never killed a child

Mr Sawoniuk, 78, of Bermondsey, southeast London. denies two charges of murder. The trial, at the Old Bailey,

girls drowned

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A WOMAN was sharing a and drugs, and unaware of cannabis joint with two boys on a dangerous riverbank when two eight-year-old girls drowned in her care.

The girls, Charles Fox and Jasmine Neville, were nonswimmers but were heard to shout, "Let's play Baywatch" before they disappeared in the River Wharfe at Arthington. near Otley, West Yorkshire. Leeds Crown Court was told yesterday that Wendy Dodd, 41, was high on drink

Wendy Dodd: left in charge of the children

the children's distress as she sunbathed in bra and cut-off shorts with two boys from a nearby travellers' camp. Vital minutes were lost because she told police that the girls had wandered off. Police called a helicopter and tracker dogs instead of frogmen. Mrs Dodd, formerly of Bur-

ley. Leeds, had denied manslaughter, and was allowed to plead guilty to lesser charges of wilful neglect amounting to journed for medical and pyschiatric reports.

James Stewart, QC, for the prosecution, said that a riverbank barbecue was planned by David and Maxine Fox, Charlea's parents, to celebrate her eighth birthday. When the couple returned to Leeds, Mrs. Dodd was left in charge. A woman heard one child

say: "Let's play Baywatch and you rescue me." At the same time, two "gypsy boys", aged about 15 and 12, were talking to Mrs Dodd from the other side off the river. She myited them for a "spliff".

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Drugs money linked to the Kosovo rebels

FROM ROGER BOYES AND ESKE WRIGHT IN BONN

THE Kosovo Liberation Army, which has won the support of the West for its guerrilla struggle against the heavy armour of the Serbs, is a Marxist-led force funded by dubious sources, including

That is the judgment of sen-ior police officers across Europe. An investigation by The Times has established that police forces in three West European countries, together with Europol, are separately investigating growing evidence that drug money is funding the KLA's leap from obscurity to

The financing of the Kosovo guerrilla war poses critical questions and it sorely tests claims to an "ethical" foreign policy. Should the West back a guerrilla army that appears to be partly financed by organ-ised crime? Could the KLA's need for funds be fuelling the heroin trade across Europe?

The KLA has become an essential component of the Kosovo peace agreement; without it, there would be no equal negotiating partner for the Belgrade Government. In military terms, it is in no sense equal to the Serb forces. But it

has grown from a theoretical notion to an often successful, very mobile and very visible guerrilla grouping in a remarkably short time.

Much of the money funding the KLA is believed to come from legitimate sources raised by the People's Movement of Kosovo (LPK), which is the political wing of the resistance movement.

There are about 500,000

• Drug routes are used for weapons 7

Kosovan Albanians in Western Europe who send money back home because it funds healthcare for their cousins. However, some of this cash is believed to be siphoned off for

As well as diverting charit-able donations from exiled Kosovans, some of the KLA moncy is thought to come from drug dealing.

Sweden is investigating suspicions of a KLA drug connec-

leading us to believe that there could be a connection between drug money and the Kosovo Liberation Army," said Walter Kege, head of the drug enforcement unit in the Swedish police intelligence service.

Supporting intelligence has come from other states, "We have yet to find direct evidence, but our experience tells us that the channels for trading hard drugs are also used for weapons," said one Swiss

An official in the Bavarian Interior Ministry also told The Times of a recent fundraising meeting involving some 200 Kosovans in southern Germany. "At the end of the session they raised DMI00,000 [about £40,000]." This represents a huge sum

for ordinary Kosovans and fuels speculation that apparently legitimate fundraising activi-ties are used to launder dirty

One Western intelligence report quoted by Berliner Zeitung says that DM900 million has reached Kosovo since the guerrillas began operations and half the sum is said to be illegal drug money.

In particular, European countries are investigating the Albanian connection: whether

ed down a Kosovo Albanian Kosovan Albanians living primarily in Germany and Switdrug dealer named Doboshi zerland are creaming off the who had escaped from a Norprofits from inner-city heroin wegian prison where he was serving 12 years for heroin trading. A raid on Doboshi's

apartment turned up docu-ments linking him with arms purchases for the KLA. Police sources in Germany key role in channelling money to the Kosovans — is at the hub of Europe's drug trade. have made plain their suspi-cions: the sudden ascendancy An intelligence report pre-pared by Germany's Federal Criminal Agency concluded: of Kosovan Albanians in the Ethnic Albanians are now the heroin trade in Switzerland. most prominent group in the Germany and Scandinavia coincides with the sudden growth of the Kosovo Liberadistribution of heroin in Western consumer countries." tion Army from a ragamuffin peasants' army two years ago

Europol, the European po-lice authority based in The Hague, is preparing a report for European interior and jusbetween the KLA and Albanian drug gangs. Czech police recently track-

dealing and sending the cash

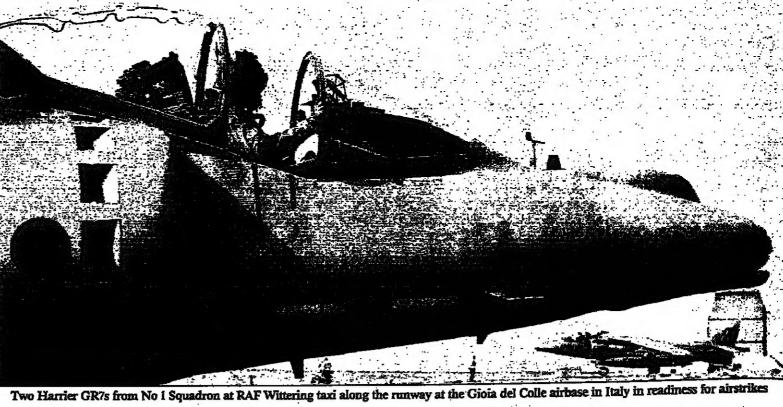
to the KLA.

Simon Jenkins, page 20

to a 30,000-strong force equipped with grenade launch-

ers, anti-tank weapons and

AK47s.



Versatile Harriers ready to go in after cruise missile strike

WITH a throaty roar which shook the ground for miles around, RAF Harriers streaked into rainswept skies above southern Italy yesterday as Britain's contingent of eight warplanes moved into a state of high alert for action against

targets in Serbia and Kosovo.
Wing Commander Graham
Wright, who commands the
RAF detachment on the Italian Nato base at Gioia del Colle, near Bari, said the Nato commanders were "aware of the threat from the Serbian air defences", which experts describe as sophisticated.

As Nato moves to the final countdown, the fear is that Serb air defences could bring down a Harrier, which has a crew of one and is subsonic, unlike some other groundattack jets. But Wing Com-mander Wright insisted that the Harrier was a flexible manoeuvrable aircraft and had "many strengths", including its night-time capability and laser-guided bombs which could "hit targets with

He said the Harriers were part of a coalition" of 400 allied aircraft "with different capabilities . . . We are part of a package in which different elements will protect each other." The mix of aircast would 'allow us to mount the most efffective and coherent air campaign we can", while precision guided systems "will enable us to hit the targets we want to hit and avoid collateral damage".

Reports say the Harriers, which carry Sidewinder missiles for self-defence, would go into action after an initial wave of US-launched Tomahawk missiles aimed at Serb Richard Owen reports on the high state of

readiness at Gioia del Colle

air defence installations. The Harrier GR7s, capable of verti-cal take-offs and landings, have infra-red equipment, with the pilot wearing nightvision goggles. They have been based at Gioa del Colle since last October, when Nato bombing of Serbia was averted at the eleventh-hour by a truce engineered by Richard

Holbrooke, the US envoy. With the ceasefire long in tatters, monitors from the Organ-

THE RAF

isation of Security and Co-operation in Europe withdrawn from Kosovo, and the talks between Mr Holbrooke and President Milosevic apparently at an end, the pilots know that "this time it might be for real".

The Harriers operate alongside Italian Tornados and F3 jets at the base, and have spent the past six months patrolling over Bosnia in support of troops enforcing the peace deal there. "The terrain is much the same as Kosovo, and so are the operational problems, such as mid-air refuelling." Wing Commander Wright said. "This puts us in a high state of readiness in preparation for any operations in Kosovo. We are ready to go."

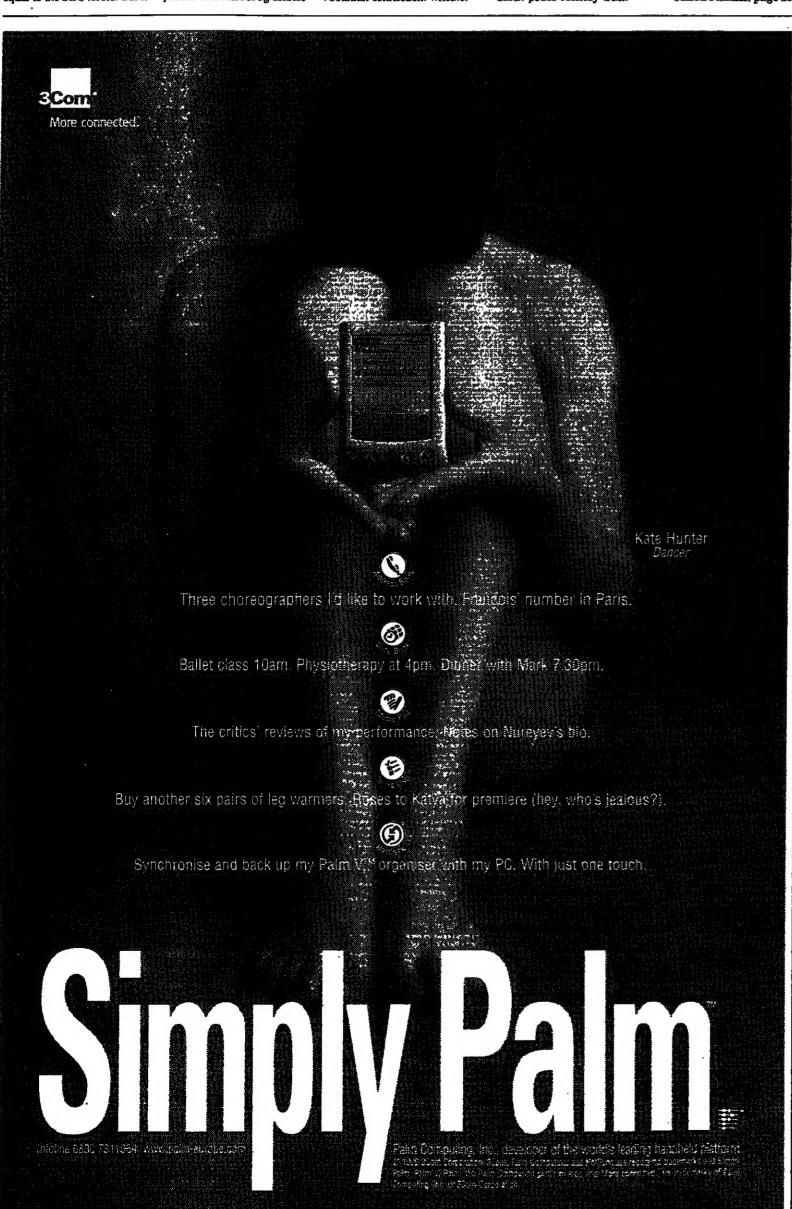
The Harrier crews, drawn from No. ! (Fighter) Squadron at Wittering, are backed up by a Canberra from RAF Mar-ham providing high-definition reconnaissance photographs. Gioia del Colle is set in a

bleak area of farmland almost. directly opposite Kosova; across the Adriatic. An RAF support staff of 250 provides tions and maintenance as well as with home comforts such as sponge pudding and custard. There are few facilities.

though a gym is promised.
With the help of Britis Army engineers, the RAF tachment has built a mini-city of Portakabin sheds and hangars at Gioia del Colle, and white, plastic-covered "sun shelters" for the Harriers.

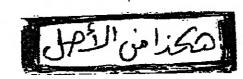
When we were here before when we were here before with a fleet of Jaguars during the Bosnia crisis; we had hardened shehers. Wg Cdr Wright, 40, said. When "we came back last year because of Kosovo, our Italian hosts had taken over facilities we had used before. But they have given us space on the edge of the base, and have even asked us how to build the white sun

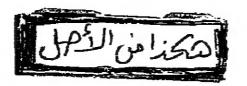
Yesterday Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, defied criticism from Communist members of his Centre-Left coalition and said Nato bases on Italian soil were "fully available" for Nato strikes. "Nato bases are not foreign, they are part of an alliance in which Italy is a partner," he said, adding: "Just a few kilometres from our borders, the Serbs are shooting at houses inhabited by civilians. This is totally unacceptable."











Hit-and-run attacks slow Serb advance

IN THE Drenica valleys there was no talk of peace, only the language of the gun. But the Serb offensive, in its fourth day, appeared to be faltering as the Kosoyo Liberation

JAY MARCH 24

Army fights on Separatist guerrillas in Pol-jance communed to the down Serb forces, denying them freedom of movement along the Srbica to Komorane road, and waylaying troops and armour that could otherwise press south. The sprawling village, a couple of miles east of Srbi-ca, appeared little more than a smouldering scar on the slopes. But the KIA, facing tanks and heavy artillery with Kalashnikovs, rockets and mines, was holding out after

nearly 100 hours of assault. "There is a big difference be-tween this offensive and the previous one last year," said Gani Koci, a senior officer in the KLA's Drenica operational zone. "Then the Serbs managed to take control over the whole of Dremica in three days while now, in similar time. they have only advanced into

several villages of the region."

On the ridgeline here, over-looking the battlefield, KLA Tiger troops - special forces in

11.2

7.74

0.175

 (A^*A^*)

Anthony Loyd in Rezala sees

the KLA change of tactics pay off

black uniforms - were singing as they drove into action: hardly the attitude of defeated fighters.

There is no doubt that the Serbs can advance into KLAcontrolled areas," Mr Koci said. "But they cannot stay there for a long time as they will be attacked, just as they are being attacked now, from all sides. We are changing our tactics. Operating in smaller groups we shall hit every place that the enemy forces pass through:"

He spoke during a brief lull in the lighting. The peace was broken abruptly just after ten o'clock as the Serbs resumed the offensive. Katyusha multibarrel rocket launchers hit the Rezala ridgeline while tanks and mortars fired into Pol-

In Srbica itself, purged of Al-banians on Saturday in an act



A woman stocks up with bread in Pristina as political moves to avert Nato airstrikes faltered yesterday

Bosnian-style "ethnic cleansing", the Yugoslav Army and police remained terise. Although they have burnt the Albanians out of villages along both the northern and southern approach roads, an army resupply convoy was am-bushed on its way there from Mitrovica the previous day by a group of KLA who emerged suddenly from what the Serbs

presumed was a secure area. Allegations are mounting of a massacre of a group of Albanian men in the town, shot down as they were driven from their homes. No bodies have been seen but a number of families have reported that their missing menfolk were last seen in the hands of Serbian special forces.

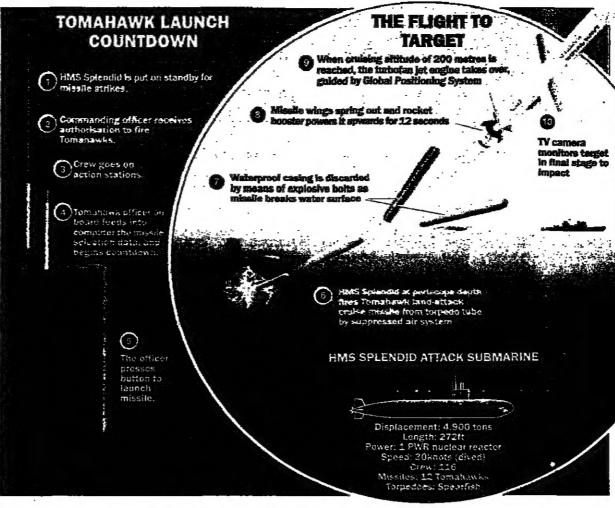
On Monday night the father of one of the missing men, Milazim Rexha, knowing that his 26-year-old son had been killed on a wooded slope as he tried to escape Srbica, asked Gani Gecaj, a local fighter from neighbouring Lausa, if he could infiltrate the Serb lines and recover the body.

Mr Gecaj, who has a reputation for bravery, agreed.

Crawling through the darkness accompanied by four others, he reached the body at the edge of the town and brought it back for burial.

The police arrived in our bouse at about 9am on Saturday," Milazims's brother explained. They told us to get out and go to Albania. I ran out of the house with my three brothers but another group of police about fifty metres away began shooting at us. Milazim was killed and we had to leave him. I don't know what hit him but it took his head off.

Two days after our delegation signed for peace and I lose my brother. The Serbs understand only force. If Nato does not come soon we must always live our lives in danger."



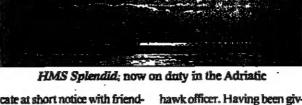
Sub will strike via computer

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE EDITOR

HMS Splendid, the Royal Navy submarine on standby to fire ber Tomahawk cruise missiles for the first time in anger, will operate according to a strict Nato plan which lays down precisely the launching order, timing and target selec-tion for each weapon system.

The nuclear-powered submarine was originally designed for underwater warfare, but since she was equipped with up to a dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles and became operational with her new weapons at the end of last year, she has been available to contribute to air battles. So, in contrast to its tradi-

tional operating philosophy "run silent, run deep" - the submarine will operate close to the surface. It will fire its missiles from periscope depth. so that the boat can communi-



en the order to fire, he will set

in motion the procedures that

lead to pressing the button and the launch of the missile.

ordered to select a particular

missile, with its individually

pre-programmed target fed

into its guidance system, and

launched, there is no system of

aborting the missile.

With the crew on action sta-

cate at short notice with friendly surface ships and submarines deployed to the Adriatic for airstrikes on Yugoslavia.

This will help to avoid missiles knocking each other out en route to a target. "Deconflic-tion" is a crucial aspect of all air campaigns. After the com-manding officer, Commander Richard Barker, the key man on board the Splendid is the "Tomahawk officer, a lieutenant who is supported by a chief perty officer.

Before HMS Splendid was Once the "requirement to diverted from an exercise in fire" has been authorised and the Mediterranean to the Adrithe commanding officer has atic, she already had on board "target libraries" - a compubeen told which mission to select, the rest is left to the Tomaterised package of missions

consisting of pre-loaded infor-mation on military targets and missile flight routes in countries judged to be troublespots.
Britain has a cruise missile

support cell at Northwood. northwest of London. If a Royal Navy Tomahawk-armed submarine requires a new mission for its computer, the information is sent by radio data link from Northwood.

Although the Royal Navy carries out its own mission planning, target selection is a matter for the highest military tions, the mission computer is authorities, once political approval has been given. Precise co-ordinates for the targets are worked out with the help of the countdown begins. Once the American Global Positioning System, an integrated network of 24 satellites that guarantees accuracy to a few yards.

One defence source said: The Tomahawk is a pilot-free way of dropping a 1,000lb bomb on a target extremely

US plan involves three key stages

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

NATO commanders have drawn up a three-stage plan aimed at destroying Serbia's capacity to wage war in Kos-ovo that could go into opera-tion "within hours" if President Milosevic of Yugoslavia maintains his defiance.

The first phase would in-volve an intense bombardment of the extensive Serb missile and artillery network, using satellite-guided Toma-hawk cruise missiles bearing 1,000lb warheads launched from four US Navy warships, two US submarines and the British submarine HMS Splendid. The B52 bombers based in Britain, armed with a 2,000lb version of the cruise

NATO

missile, are also available for the first onslaught. Nato jets might be employed to slow the advance of Serb units operat-

ing inside Kosovo.

The plan then calls for a "breathing space", providing Mr Milosevic with an opportunity to halt the Yugoslav Army offensive and accept the accord giving limited autonomy to Kosovo. If he declines to budge, the second stage of the attack would then be launched: a larger, sustained assault on 300 targets making up the Serb military infrastructure in and around Kosovo.

The third stage of the plan follows the assumed success of the first two: with Mr Milosevic ready to accept the settlement and his military machine no longer capable of retaliation or oppression, it calls for the introduction of 28,000 Nato peacekeeping troops.



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MPs divide into opposing camps

James Landale hears arguments for and against military action after Blair's Commons statement

MPs from all parties yesterday gave a mixed reception to Tony Blair's Commons statement on the threat of Nato airstrikes in Kosovo.

William Hague, the Tory leader, backed the need for military action from the air but opposed deployment of troops on the ground. He also said the Government should have acted earlier. "Given the repeated threats and ultimatums issued

months, we support the Government taking the scribed." said, "And while we support the use of ground ment a diplomatic settlement, we will not support

ground troops to fight for a settlement." Mr Hague told Mr Blair: "While we would welcome an explicit demonstration of Nato credibility . . . we regret that some decisive action did not take place earlier."

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrats' foreign affairs spokesman, said: 'This is a bad business which could turn out to be a bloody one as well. Nobody should underestimate the risk of casualties on both

But airstrikes should be contemplated "because of the deliberate and brutal targeting of civilians by the Scrbian forc-es as they shell, loot and burn

 Most MPs accept airstrikes but with reluctance because we cannot have confidence that bombs will bring peace ?

> villages and make refugees of their inhabitants," Donald Anderson, Labour chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said the Prime Minister was right

to issue a final warning to Mi-

losevic. "But he is also right to point out the very high risks involved. Most members of this House accept the need for airstrikes but with extreme reluctance because we cannot surely have confidence that bombs will bring peace. This is indeed very risky."
Sir Archibald Hamilton.

chairman of the Tory back-bench 1922 Committee, demanded to know what the Prime Minister

planned to do if airstrikes failed. Bruce George, Labour chairman of the Defence Select Com-

there was "over-

whelming sup-port for mili-Donald Anderson among MPs and the public. Sir Peter Tapsell (Cons.

Louth and Horncastle) said airstrikes alone would not achieve Nato's objectives. Air-strikes had failed in Bosnia where a peace was achieved only when ground troops were

Tony Blair making the case for military action in his Commons statement yesterday

deployed. "Using weasel words to the British people at said. "What the Government is proposing now is to make war on Serbia and it is a profound political mistake to supple should be told now that we pose that Milosevic is not supare embarking inevitably in ported by the mass of the Serground operations that will rebian patriotic people, who are one of the great fighting peosult in heavy casualties." Mr Blair angrily insisted that Britples of Europe. The British peoain had no alternative but to acting are to plunge that consign literally thousands of innocent people to death and

Clive Soley, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, backed airstrikes. The British people have learnt more than anyone else that appeasement does not work."

Tom King (C. Bridgwater). the former Tory Defence Secre-tary, backed military action. There is in my mind no alternative but to demonstrate very firmly the credibility of Nato." he said. But he added that ground troops would be necessary and gave warning that this would stretch Britain's Armed Forces too far.

Tony Benn (Lab, Chesterfield), the veteran former minister, said the Prime Minister's statement was the gravest since the 1956 Suez crisis. "An ultimatum has been announced amounting to an all-out air war and possibly ground war against a member state in the United Nations which under article 51 has the right to self-defence."

He insisted that Britain and its allies were breaking international law. The bombing, he claimed, was unlikely to be any more successful than it had been in Iraq: "It is bound to cause casualties, worsen the humanitarian crisis and could

nationalist leader, asked Mr Blair to make clear whether or not the Government planned

to use ground troops. The Prime Minister replied: "We support the use of ground troops in supporting the agreement. But we do not plan to use ground troops in order to fight our way into Kosovo. It would take a huge commitment, possibly over 100,000

ground troops."

David Winnick (Lab. Walsall N) backed airstrikes. "Either we allow the atrocities to continue and the crimes against humanity to continue or we decide to act and act decisively." He said opponents of intervention had been wrong over the Falklands in 1981. over Kuwait in 1991, and in Bosnia in 1995. "So why on earth should we believe they

are right now?" he asked. David Curry (C. Skipton and Ripon) asked: What happens if the bombing does not 5 bring him [Milosevic] to the negotiating table?"

Julian Brazier (C, Canter-bury), said evidence from Hanoi to Grozny was that bombing strengthened rather than weakened the resolve of the victim. He told Mr Blair: "If you are not willing to follow up bombing with ground forces, I put it to you, it would be better not to bomb at all."

Simon Jenkins, page 20

What happens if bombing does not work?

happens if the bombs fail, never fully an-swered, echoed through the hour of Commons exchanges yesterday on Kosovo. It summed up the complicated cross-currents of views and divisions at Westminster, a mixture of outrage against Serbian actions, apprehension about the risks of bombing and uncertainty about the out-

Tony Blair was direct, candid and occasionally passionate in making the case for military action. He was right to do

ON POLITICS will be in Berlin at the European summit for the next two days. He argued that "if Kosovo was left to the mercy of Serbian repression, there is not merely a risk but a probability of reigniting unrest in Al-bania: Macedonia destabilised: almost certain knock-on effects in Bosnia: and further tension between Greece and

Turkey". This won the support of most MPs, though generally with conditions and misgiv ings. William Hague backed airstrikes and the use of ground troops in support of a diplomatic settlement, but reiected their use to fight for such a settlement. He sought assurances that airstrikes would not be a prelude to a

Mr Blair was firm that ground forces would be used only when a settlement was in place, and not "to fight our way into Kosovo". Nato action would be solely in the form of airstrikes. He noted that more than 100,000 ground troops would be needed to defeat the Serbs in Kosovo. What he omitted was that the Americans will not agree to commit ground troops to fight in this way. Congress has been deeply divided even on sending troops to a Nato peacekeeping operation.

Opinion in the Commons was divided across party lines. On the Labour side, there was support, albeit with warnings about the risks to British forces, from Donald Anderson and Bruce George, chairmen of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Select Committees, and opposition from the Left, notably Tony Benn and Alice Mahon.

Mr Hague's support was en-dorsed by establishment figures such as Tom King, Defence Secretary in the Gulf War. There was, however, sub-

stantial Tory dissent, expressed by mainstream figures such as Sir Peter Tapsell and Ju-

bombing alone would achieve and argued that ground operations would inevitably be involved.

The central issue, put succinctly by David Curry, is what happens if bombing does not bring Milosevic to the negotiating table? Mr Blair did not claim this would necessarily be achieved and replied that airstrikes would have as their "precise minimum objective to prevent, curb and reduce his ability to suppress Kosovan Albanians' by aiming at the Serbs' mili-tary capabilities. This failed to convince all.

imilar doubts were heard yesterday in Washington Senator John McCain, a Republican supporter of airstrikes, said that there is "no plan B if the bombing doesn't work and I'm worried whether the bombing will be sufficient".

Mr Blair obtained the necessary support for launching airstrikes, if only because of the likely further loss of life in Ko-sovo, and instability "on the doorstep of the European Union", if Nato does not act firmly now. But the backing is conditional and divisions are greater than during the Falklands or Gulf wars because doubters include Tory as well as Labour MPs. Mr Blair should not take parliamentary opinion for granted.

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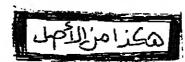
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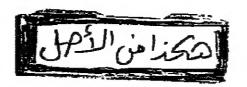
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There goes the bride for another 24 miles

Mick Gambrill's tattoo,

instead of a ring

wich, where their guests will

the building together to be greeted by a recording of the Tina Turner song Simply the Best, which has become an anther the terror to the transfer of the transfer to the transfer of the trans

"Hopefully we'll get time to grab a glass of bubbly along the way." Mr Gambrill said. Ms Cole, 43, a teacher at a special school in Thornton

Heath, Surrey, will be given a gold ring that Mr Gambrill

will zip into his nylon running bracelet for safe-keeping dur-ing the first two miles. Mr

Gambrill, 46, a printer at

them for athletes.

A COUPLE will tie the laces of their air-cushioned trainers before they tie the knot when ning in the Flora London Mar-

athon next month.

Mick Gambrill and Bar-bara Cole, from Croydon, South London, who have competed in 100 marathons between them, will say their vows at the two-mile marker, then finish the rest of the 6.2-mile race as man and wife. To mark the occasion the couple, who are experi-enced club runners, will be chauffeured from their hotel to the starting line, where they will lead off the field of 30,000

namers. "We spend most of our lives noing marathons and thought it would be just perfect to get married during one. We are absolutely thrilled to bits," Ms Cole said.

Mr Gambrill said: "We've run in just about every race there is and we've never heard of anything like this before, so we're really excited."

After a ten-minute sprint they will arrive at Charlton House, a Jacobean mansion

wear jewellery at work, so he has a tattoo on his bicep featuring the wedding date. A team of stylists under the direction of the designer Jeff

Banks plan to restyle the cou-ple who are usually found in shorts, fleeces and Lycra. The custom-made wedding day outfits, the designs of which remain a secret, will be "glamor-ous but easy to move in". Ms Cole will wear white. The running partners first

met six years ago in Lanzarote while training for endurance races. But they were both involved in relationships at the time. "We got on immedi-ately and met up at various races afterwards and then it eventually happened," said Mr Gambrill, who has a son and a daughter by his previous marriage.

They moved in three years ago and got en-gaged while running the Dis-ney Marathon on New Year's

They are expected to complete the race on April 18 in ust over five hours, hours longer than their usual running times. "For once we don't care how long it takes us to get

What is Chris Evans doing for **Books for Schools?**

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Irvine in happen dock over jobs for the boys

THE Lord Chancellor chooses to be surrounded by white men, a hearing into race and sex discrimination allegations against him was told yesterday. Lord Irvine of Lairg appointed white men to work for him and his circle of contacts

10t worl

was "overwhelmingly male". The employment tribunal sitting in Croydon, South London, was hearing claims by women that Lord Irvine and the Lord Chancellor's Denatiment had discriminated against them by failing to advertise the job of special adviser to the Lord Chancellor or to consider them for it. Karon Monaghan, counsel for one of the women, Martha Osamor, said: "Our research suggests" the Lord Chancellor has only known one black person for a

long time. The Lord Chancellor ap-Garry pointed

Hart, a senior partner in the London • He has law firm Herbert Smith, who is also the godfather of Tony Blair's daughknown ter, to the £73,000 only one Under the rules of black appointment for special advisers, Lord Irvine was

person for not required to advertise the position. The tribunal beard some time that Lord Irvine had wanted to ap-point someone with whom he is that it is not right. Ms Oshad long experience and in

and confidence. Ms Osamor, 59, a legal adviser, and Jane Coker, 44, an immigration lawyer, say that those specifications limited the number of black people and women who could be considered for the position, because the Lord Chancellor's circle of contacts consisted overwhelm-

whom he had complete trust

ingly of white men.
The Lord Chancellor's world was overwhelmingly a male world and that was the world from which he chose Mr Hart," said Jane Deighton, the solicitor for both women, who is acting as counsel for Ms Coker.

Ms Coker said that she hadesearched the Lord Chancellor's history of social and professional contacts and believed

that the number of women with whom he had had professional contact was small.

She said that he had gone to a men's college at Cambridge, was a member of the all-male Garrick club and that, when he established his chambers in 1981, he had hired white men said that he had had no black tenants until 1994 and few

Richard McManus, counsel for the Lord Chancellor and his department, said that Lord Irvine had appointed his personal secretary, a woman, and that he had appointed women and people from ethnic minori-

Mr McManus also said that the pool of senior lawyers available for Lord Irvine to choose from included more white men than women or

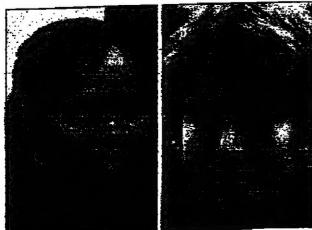
members of ethnic minorities. He said to Ms Coker: "The picture you paint of the Lord Chancellors world is a slanted picture."
She replied: "No." Mr McManus put to Ms Osamor that Lord Irvine was simply following normal procedure in the appointment

of Mr Hart. "I don't know what the normal procedure is: all I know

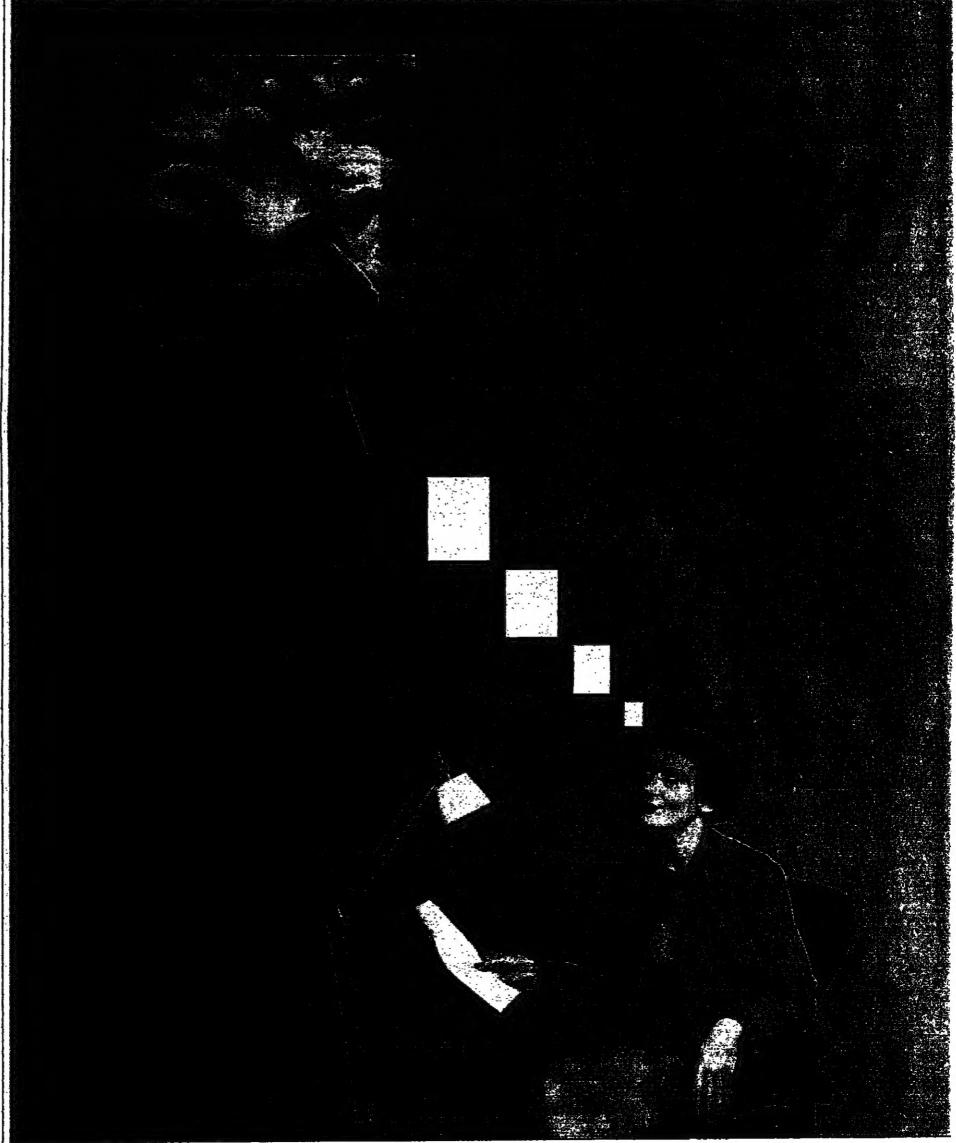
amor replied.
Mr McManus asked Ms Coker how the Lord Chancellor could have appointed her when he needed someone in whom he had total trust. Ms Coker, who has never met Lord Irvine, said: "It is not necessary to know somebody to select them for a post in which they will need to build up a close, trusting working relation-ship. He failed to permit me to

show that I met the criteria."

Ms Monaghan said the pair had been treated differently from Mr Hart because of their gender and, in Ms Osamor's She urged the tribunal to draw an adverse inference from the Lord Chancellor's decision not to give evidence. "He's not above the law," she said. The hearing continues.



Osamor and Coker accuse the Lord Chancellor of bias



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Thousands caught in travel paper chaos

Businessmen and tourists stranded by immigration office's computer problems, reports Richard Ford

A COMPUTER project costing £77 million to speed immigration and asylum decisions is at least 14 months behind schedule, causing chaos for thousands of people unable to update travel documents.

Plans to make 500 staff redundant at the immigration and Nationality Directorate have been abandoned after warnings that job losses could cause more delays for the public, according to a government watchdog report today. More problems could be in store because the limited software being used by the directorate is not year-2000 compliant.

The National Audit Office report says that, in retrospect, the project was too ambitious. Thousands of people, including foreign businessmen and travellers, have been stranded in Britain because their pass-

ports cannot be located at the

directorate's offices in Croydon, South London. Jack Straw yesterday made his second visit in five weeks to Croydon as the Home Office admitted that applicants "trapped" in Britain and unable to travel could receive ex-gratia payments from the Government.

Mr Straw said: "I regard turning the situation round at Croydon as the most important management task in the Home Office."

People requiring work permits have suffered months of delays because of chaos at Croydon caused by the new working practices and the delays in computer upgrading under a contract agreed by the Conservative Government.

Six John Rounn head of the

Sir John Bourn, head of the National Audit Office, says in his report that it is a matter of concern that the directorate has not secured delivery of the



Sir John Bourn: said the project was too ambitious

project on time. "The directorate, applicants and the taxpayer have not yet received the full benefits the project was in-

tended to produce,"

The report adds: "There are many examples of bespoke projects such as this one, which in retrospect can be seen to have been too ambitious, despite there having been enthusiastic bids for the work from prospective suppliers."

The aim of the contract

awarded to Siemens Business

paper to a computer-based system. Computers were to be upgraded and officials trained in new working methods.

But problems arose when it was decided to abandon plans to use existing information technology packages and create tailormade software. Under the previous Government it was decided to press ahead without renegotiating a new timetable for implementing the project. That meant that the partial introduction of the system in April 1998 was put back in later this summer.

The problems have been compounded by the relocation of 1,000 staff from the directorate's headquarters at Lunar House to another office in the nearby Whitgift Centre in Croydon. The staff plus 200,000 paper files, stretching for 14 miles, began moving in December and in the chaos travel documents have been mislaid.

The directorate is telling people in urgent need of travel documents to approach embassies and high commissions to request new ones.



Zoe Machson, 23, waiting to audition yesterday. The producers say Hardy's bleak novel is "strangely life affirming"

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Hunt for Tess with a song in her heart

By HELEN RUMBELOW

THE search for an actress to play Thomas Hardy's doomed heroine in a romantic musical based on his bleak novel Tess of the D'Urbervilles began yesterday at open auditions in London. Outside the theatre stood a quene of 200 doleful women, including one in traditional Wessex dress and sporting a haro.

and sporting a harp.
Each was hoping for a part
in the all-singing, all-dancing
adaptation of the novel, with
lyrics by Justin Fleming and
music by Stephen Edwards,
that comes to the West End
this autumn, sponsored by
Nestle Matchmakers.

Bruce Athol Mackimon, who designed the production by the JFK Repertory Company, said there would be no high-kicking milkmaids or blockbuster finales. In an effort to avoid the media lampooning meted out to Heath-cliff, a musical adaptation of Wuthering Heights starring Sir Chiff Richard as the brooding anti-hero, they have stayed as close as possible to the spirit of Hardy. The concept is of a "modern opera" rather than a Tess-style pop show. "It is an epic love story that is

strangely tife-affirming, rather than depressing, like Miss Saigon, or Madam Butterfly. Sad but beautiful."

It opens with Tess meeting her beloved Angel Clare in the rustic comedy of a Dorset dairy; her dark past with the dastardly Alex D'Urberville is told in a "danced flashback".

Mr Mackimon said: "Hardy was a huge fan of people developing his work — there was an opera version of Tess performed at the turn of the century, although they only did the first half of the book. He himself wrote a play of Tess." Among contemporary adaptations are Roman Polanski's film, starring Nastassja Kinski, and a recent dramatisation for television.

The musical's director, Karen Hebden, said: "We're not looking for a Kinski, but a girl with real spark to her, that fits a woman's version of Tess rather than a man's. I'm not convinced we've moved on so, far since the last century in terms of sexual politics. Monica Lewinsky was asked how she could have fallen for such a creep; that was pure Tess of a century ago."

NEWS IN BRIEF

54 held in police raids

Five hundred police made a series of raids against drug dealers, burglars and receivers linked to the Salford area. Officers from Greater Manchester Police arrested 43 men and 11 women, and recovered a sawn-off shotgun and two pistols. The raids followed a year-long undercover operation that found stolen property and drugs worth about £500,000.

Braille monthly

A monthly braille magazine for young men with sight problems will be launched next month by the Royal National Institute for the Blind. SP will feature relationships, health, sex and entertainment.

Badger abuse

Richard Atkins, 31, and Lee Button, 25, both of Swadlincote, Derbyshire, have been jailed for two months for digging for badgers to fight their dogs. They were banned from keeping dogs for three years.

Driver plastered

A motorist who drove with his entire right leg encased in plaster was fined £300 for careless driving. Kenneth Irvine, 24, had his licence endorsed with four penalty points by Paisley Sheriff Court.

Think pink

Newly planted saplings in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, are to to have luminous pink bands painted on their trunks to deter thieves who stole an £80 douglas fir from Linear Park in Cinderford.

Stalker is found dead in her car

A WOMAN bank worker who was convicted of stalking a businessman has been found

dead.

The body of Angela Reid, an assistant manager with the TSB, was found in a fume-filled car in a forest near Newport, South Wales. Police said that her death was not be-

ing treated as suspicious.

Miss Reid, 40, had been embarrassed after appearing in court for stalking a client. Simon Butler, whom she had harassed for six months after a one-night stand. She was given a conditional discharge by magistrates in Pontypridd seven months ago. They decided not to jail her because a prison sentence would ruin her career.

Miss Reid was a rising executive with the TSB until her fling with Mr Butler, a restaurateur. Magistrates were told that afterwards she had circulated a photograph of him. with the words "no good bastard" written on it, to his restaurant, and that she had sent letters to his ex-wife and parents saying he took drugs and drank too much.

The court was told that she had met Mr Butler. 33, six years earlier when he opened a mortgage account at the TSB, and that "there had been continuous business dealing between them". However, she began ringing him continually, even after he had changed to a silent number. The calls, the court was told, then became more threatening.

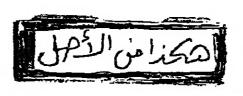
Miss Reid was on long-term sick leave from the TSB, which declined to comment. A friend of Miss Reid said:

A friend of Miss Reid said:
The court case was a terrible strain on her and her career.
Everyone knew about it."

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£1,000 fine for drivers who block bus lanes

MOTORISTS will be fined up to £1,000 for blocking bus lanes as part of a government campaign to improve bus

Hundreds of cameras will also be introduced on buses and at the roadside to record drivers leaving their vehicles in designated bus lanes. They are among a package of measures in a document unveiled by John Prescott yesterday that aims to increase the numbers of bus passengers by up

The Deputy Prime Minister dismissed as inadequate the £20 fixed penalty fines currently imposed by police on driv-ers who block bus lanes. The Government's blueprint for bus travel suggests that enforcement be carried out by specialist wardens better able to bring prosecutions leading to the £1,000 fine.

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her car

her hear Ministers have been encouraged by the fact that a decline in bus travel stretching back almost 50 years was reversed last year. The 1 per cent rise in passenger travel is seen as evidence that bus lanes, better constitute the seen as evidence that bus lanes, better quality buses and stricter enforcement of timetables can encourage motorists to leave their cars at home.

With bus passengers outnumbering rail travellers by three to one, ministers believe that local buses offer the quickest solution to town centre traffic congestion and in linking remote rural areas. Some £150 million will be spent setting up new rural services within three years.

A crackdown on motorists using bus stops is also pro-posed in the blueprint. Trials of bus-mounted cameras in London have proved successful in speeding up journeys by up to 40 per cent, and 360 cameras are to be installed in the capital. Nationwide expansion

Mr Prescott lauded the re- half-price level.

cent success of several towns and cities, including Manchester, Birmingham, Ipswich, Edinburgh and Brighton, where bus travel had risen by up to 40 per cent in the past two years.

"Buses represent the best op-portunity for leading a renaissance of public transport in this country. At the end of the day, it is what the passenge wants that matters," he said

Mr Prescott criticised some bus operators for running old and unreliable buses, failing to follow timetables and charging high fares. He said that new laws would be introduced enabling local authorities to create legally binding con-tracts that would force bus operators to stick to services.

Among policies put forward in the document were more powers for traffic commissioners to act against operators who fail to run services as advertised. Half-price travel is to be provided for all pensioners, although most local authori-ties already offer at least 50 per cent reductions.

The document proposes making local authorities re-sponsible for ensuring that adequate bus information was available. It also calls for more flexible ticketing arrange-ments between bus operators and the rail industry.

The Conservatives said that the document was "another glossy brochure" with very little new in it, and the Liberal Democrats said that, without urgent legislation and extra cash, Mr Prescott's "thoroughbred dream will not be able to get out of the starting blocks". The bus industry welcomed the statement. Help the Aged

applauded measures to introduce half-price travel, but said it hoped that, in areas where pensioners enjoyed reductions of more than 50 per cent, spe-



Simon de Bruxelles waiting half an hour at Nunney yesterday to begin a journey requiring three buses. On two of them he was the only passenger

Grass-routes travel: too little, too late

19-mile rural bus trip costs £5 and takes Simon de Bruxelles 3 hours

I AM looking forward to lunch at The George in Nun-ney, Somerset, when my mo-bile rings. "How quickly could you get home..." asks the news editor, pausing be-fore adding, "... by bus?" By car, the 19-mile journey

to Broughton Gifford, across the border in Wiltshire, takes about 25 minutes. Lunchless, I begin a rural ride that takes three hours and three buses. followed by a mile on foot, costs nearly £5 and convinces me that, while rural bus services might be a good idea, the reason they barely exist is be-cause nobody who has to pay the full fare is ever likely to

My journey begins in the marketplace in Nunney, not a. bad place to wait half an hour for a bus. There is a river lined with daffodils and a

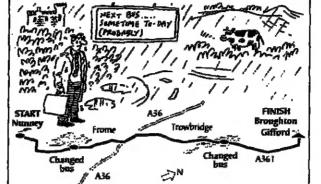
backdrop. Even the bus shelter is thatched, though you wouldn't want to go inside. I am so engrossed in the scenery, and the bus driver so surprised to see a passenger.

that he does not even slow

down until 1 yell: "Oi, stop that bus." The only passenger. I take the front seat for the four-mile drive to Frome, the nearest town. Cost: a modest 50p. Six minutes later, right on time, I am dropped off in the town

centre to await my connection. In the tourist information centre, four middle-aged women are only too anxious to tell me about the local bus services. "They're a joke," says one, "unless you want to go to work by bus, in which case they aren't funny at all,

cause you can't." It turns out I am fortunate tacular ruined castle as its Nunney. Wincanton, further



south in Somerset, also has a bus service to Frome, but it runs only on the first Saturday of every month.

Deregulation means a blizzard of paper giving times of services by different operators. Trying to work out the connections gives me a head-ache, so I ask for the time of the next bus to Bradford-on-Broughton Gifford.

Bradford-on-Avon bus now goes to Chippenham. If you get off at Trowbridge there's probably a bus to Broughton

Gifford, though I don't know the times." An hour later, the doubledecker arrives ten minutes late and, when I offer the driver a £1 coin, he sniffs and says: ~£2.35, mate." Upstairs I admire the view as we go down every back lane between branches smash against the windows. Once again I am the only passenger.

Trowbridge proves a depressing detour. I am deposited in the town centre and am told the bus to Broughton Gifford leaves in 35 minutes. I kill time in a bookshop, spending more than I saved by resisting the temptation to go by

The bus to Broughton Gif-ford arrives on time and fills up almost immediately. I share the back seat with a fat boy with a US Marine-style baircut and a woman in combat gear and a bandanna. An old man shuffles on and tells everyone how lucky he is to have found a bus going in his

We arrive in Broughton Gif-ford at 3.10pm. The five-mile journey has cost £1.50. I have a mile to walk home, but it proves to be the most pleasant part of a journey I am not anxious to repeat. Unfortunately, I have little

Internet plots way around speed cameras

By MARK HENDERSON

A MILITANT motoring organisation is leading a backlash against speed cameras by publishing full details of their locations on the internet.

Motorists can plan their journeys around Britain's estimated 2,000 cameras by consulting the website set up by the Association of British Drivers, which claims to stand up for the civil rights of the road user. Visitors to the Website are invited to send in de-

tails of new cameras or inactive ones by e-mail, and a £15 annual membership buys regular updates with maps showing the latest traps. The list was revised as recently as last Sunday, to add a new camera on the A421 in Bedfordshire.

The number of drivers fined or prosecuted on the evidence of speed cameras has grown from 290 in 1992, the first year in which they were allowed, to more than 262,000 in 1996, the last year for which figures are available.

Up to 85 per cent of cam-eras are left switched off because it costs more than £8,000 a year to keep them supplied with film, but new digital versions will mean many more can be left running at a fraction of that

The ABD site competes with the American Speedtrap Registry, which de-tails a wide selection of traps around Britain.

The most speed-trapped stretch of road, according to its site, is the A697 in the Scottish Borders, which features eight sets of cameras in close proximity.

The American site identifies even more on the Al0 in Enfield, North London, where 12 sets monitor speeds and traffic lights. ☐ Netlinks: www.deltacom.co.uk/abd/index.htm British Drivers' Association homepage www.speedtrap.com/index.

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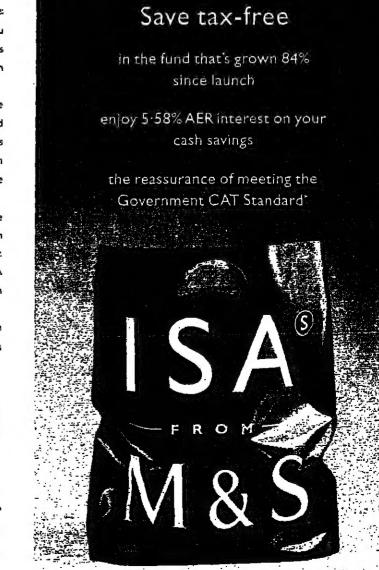
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Cancer mix-up cost woman her breast

Hospital may face £500,000 compensation claim, reports Ian Murray

A HOSPITAL trust has admitted responsibility for a labora-tory test mistake that led to a young mother having a healthy breast removed after was wrongly diag-

Last month Anita Froggatt, 28, from Chesterfield, Derbyshire, had her right breast and six lymph nodes removed because a laboratory report said that a biopsy taken from her was cancerous.

Her ordeal began at Christmas when she noticed a lump the size of a marble on her right breast. She was relieved when two biopsies proved negative and a scan was also clear but as a precaution she opted to have the lump removed. It was cut away and taken to the pathology laboratory for routine tests. However, these showed she did have cancer so she agreed to have her breast

As she was about to start a course of chemotherapy, furher revealed it to be perfectly NHS Trust. "It is a tragic situa-

healthy. When the mistake was discovered a laboratory worker was put on paid leave until an investigation is completed but the surgeon who carried out the operation has not been sus-

"There can be no blame attached there at all," said Christopher Day, the medical director of Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital tion and we take full responsi-bility," he said. "We have giv-en her a frank explanation of events and of course, a full apology. We have discussed the options available now and the help we can offer - includ-

A hospital spokeswoman said no other patient was involved, "It might have been a wrong diagnosis or it could have been that a slide from

> would not be ideal." Mrs Froggatt has lost her factory job because the removal of her lymph glands re-stricts the use of her arm. She said yesterday: "I couldn't be-lieve what they had done to me for nothing. They have ruined

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said: "It makes me feel ill just thinking about it. I will be writing to this poor lady and have asked for immediate action to ensure this nev-



David Penn, who won first prize in a competition to invent a millennium gadger, demonstrates his room locator

Boy shows the way to lost souls

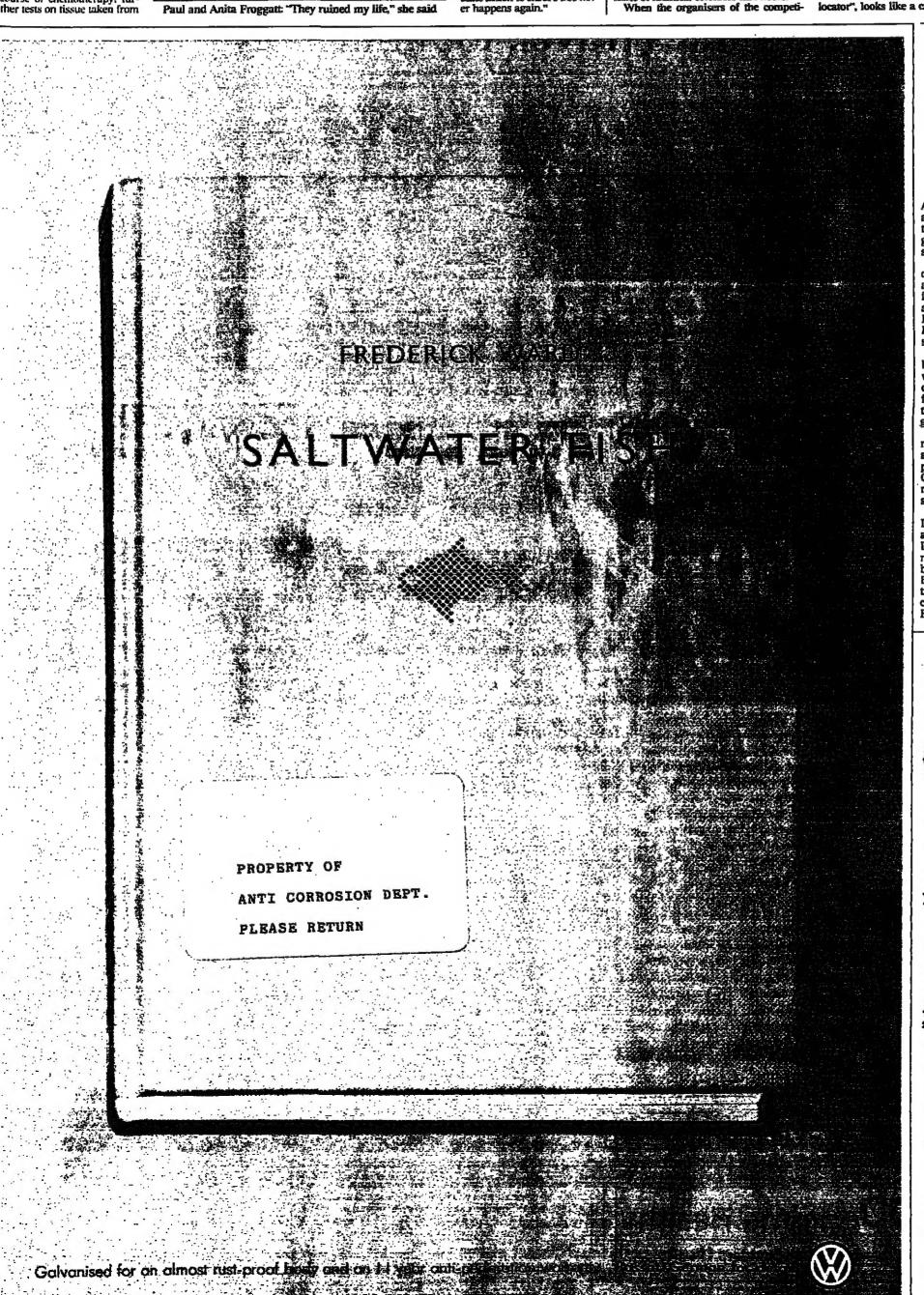
A COMPETITION to invent a gadget for the millennium has been won by a tenyear-old boy whom the organisers mistook for an adult (Elizabeth Judge writes). David Penn, from Stowmarket, Suffolk, came up with a homing device to help lost hotel guests to find their rooms in the maze of identical corridors and doors.

boy. A spokesman said: "We were expect-ing him to be in his thirties. We were totally surprised to find out he was so young. His gadget shows sheer genius." The handheld device, named a "room

locator", looks like a calculator. When a

hotel key is inserted, flashing arrows on the screen will work with sensors in the hotel to lead users to their rooms. David has applied for a patent on his design. The first prize was supposed to be two

nights in an hotel on New Year's Eve. David opted instead for a party with his friends and his favourite meal of ham-



Woman of 55 has second test-tube baby

By Adrian Lee

A WOMAN who became Britain's oldest mother of a testtube baby two years ago has given birth again, two months short of her 56th birthday.

Pauline Lyon, who caused controversy when she lied about her age to try to secure fertility treatment five years ago, had a healthy boy at Hinchingbrooke Hospital in Huntingdon,

shire, on Monday.

Mrs Lyon said before the birth: "I know a lot of people will disagree with what we are doing, but it will be wonderful for our daughter to have a lit-tle brother or sister to play and grow up with.

Before their daughter. Lauren. was conceived, Mrs Lyon and her husband, Dave, 53, a prison officer, from March, Cambridgeshire, advertised in seeking an egg donor.

Last year Liz Buttle, 61, from also hid her age, took Mrs Lyon's record as the oldest mother to have a test-tube baby following treatment in Britain. Both women were treated at the London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre in Harley Street Mrs Lyon had



Pauline Lyon with her daughter Lauren

lied to another clinic in an unsuccessful attempt to gain

Ian Craft, director of the centre, said yesterday: "Mrs Lyon, had every reason to have another child. She is a wonderful, competent mother and tohad been natural conceptions limit that the clinic sets for fertility treatment. Professor

birth to a test-tube baby at the



anticipated turnover of under £1 million. Full details are in our Starter Pack. Some calls may be recorded and monitored.

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Watchdog attacks Street deal

Soap opera storyline has incurred the wrath of the Office of Fair Trading, reports Carol Midgley

PRICE-FIXING deal befured in the plot of Coronation Street has been condemned by he Office of Fair Trading. Officials said the soap's

ewsagent, Rita Sullivan, and its corner-shop owner. Ravi Desai, had made an illegal recoment that set a bad examle to the public. In the storyline. Mrs Sullivan has ledged not to sell cheap bread and, in return, Mr Desai has promised to stop stocking cutprice newspapers.

in its first warning on a tele-vision plot, the tracking watchdog said that such deals were accompetitive and could be referred to the Restrictive Practices Court. While Granada Television defended the story-line as "harmless"; the Office of Fig. Trading said that if you of Fair Trading said that, if un-challenged, it endorsed a breach of the law.

Mrs Sullivan's foster daughter, Sharon Gaskell, had begun the price war by selling cheap bread while she was looking after the shop. Mr Desai's daughter, Nita, who runs the corner shop, setaliated by stocking papers. But Mrs Sulli-van and Mr Desai later made a deal that they would not take away each other's trade.

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s Starter Pack

An Office of Fair Trading spokesman said: "If there was ase like this in real life we would definitely have to look at it. It could be seen as a mar-ket-sharing agreement because it is restricting competi-tion between shops, as defined under the Restrictive Practices

"Most agreements where two or more parties agree to re-strict their freedom to compete must be sent to the Office of Fair Trading.

We take a strong line against price-fixing and mar-ket-sharing, but suspect that some of these agreements go on because people are una-ware of the law. "Agreements do not have to

be written down to be covered by the legislation. If this law is broken we will instruct the businesses to stop the practice. and, if they persist, they could end up in prison for contempt of court."

The spokesman added: "Itwill be interesting to see how the storyline develops and we will be watching it closely."
Granada Television seemed unaware that such a deal

would be ruled illegal. A spokesman said: "It was just a gentleman's agreement be tween Ravi Desai and Rita Fairclough, Mr Desai agreed not to sell newspapers at the corner shop and Mrs Fairclough agreed not to sell bread at The Kabin. As far as we are concerned they were just keeping to an agreement which suetches back 20 years to the time of Alf Roberts."

She added: "We do not feel... the agreement is restricting



Ravi Desai, the Coronation Street corner-shop owner played by Saeed Jaffrey, has struck a deal with Rita Sullivan (Barbara Knox) that suits both parties

competition because Corona-When soaps bubble over into reality tion Street residents can go to the Freshoo Supermarket if ly. It does not restrict them

IT IS not the first time that soap operas from buying what they want and it's not market-sharing have made waves in the real world. Last year the Prime Minister demanded the release of Deirdre Rachid from prison, to the derision of political commentators. Mrs Rachid, a character from Coronation Street, had been wrongfully imprisoned for fraud, to the outrage of viewers. A spokesman for Tony Blair said at the time: "The power to free her lies with the

scriptwriters and they would do well to hear public and parliamentary opinion. While they are at it, they should ensure that Sally and Kevin, the Websters, whose marriage is in trouble, live happily ever after as well."

The jailing of the fireman George Jackson in Channel 4's Brookside prompted a national campaign to free him. T-shirts were issued, "Free George Jackson" graf-

fiti began appearing on walls and a pop record of the same title was released.

Brookside angered cancer charities when it featured an elderly woman dying at home in agony because she did not have enough morphine to control her pain. Macmillan Cancer Relief and other charities made statements emphasising that, in reality, cancer patients would never be left to suffer such pain.

Reindeer call for boycott of Ikea

ENVIRONMENT

LAPLANDERS are calling on British shoppers to hoycott lkea, claiming that the Swedish furniture retailer is failing to protect their ancient rein

deer-grazing lands.
The Sami, a semi-nomadic people, say that Swedish forest companies exporting wood products to Britain are robbing them of their ancient winter grazing. They are urging consumers and companies to support only those wood products backed by the Forest Stewardship Council scheme. About 85 companies, includ-

ing B&Q and Sainsbury's Homebase, have joined the council's certification scheme, But Olof Johansson, a Sami reindeer herder from Asarna, central Sweden, urged more businesses to put pressure on woodland owners and timber shippers in Sweden, from where Britain gets 20 per cent of its wood, to help to protect the Sami way of life.

Susanne Bergstramd, environmental manager for Ikea, said yesterday that the company was aware of the difficulties facing the Sami. Ikea was trying to source certified wood, including Forest Stewardship Certified products. But she conceded that the company "could not guarantee" that shoppers were being sold furniture and

wood items under the scheme. Steve Howard, of the World Wide Fund for Nature, which is backing the Sami, said yesterday: "Ikea should use its muscle to get forest owners properly certified. Some companies have put their heads above the parapet; ones such as Ikea should too."

For centuries the Sami, who number 3,000 in Sweden, have herded reindeer from summer mountain areas into winter woodlands. But in recent years large forest companies have sold off land to ...aller landlords, who claus that the reindeer damage rees.

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE daughter of a woman allegedly starved to death on a doctor's orders yesterday backed the doctor's judgment.
The woman, named only as Mrs D.

said that she and her three sisters were relieved when they hear at Ken Taylor had told nurses at the ford House nursing home in President stop "force feeding" 85-year-old Mary Ormerod in June 1995. She told the General Medical Council's professional conduct commit—supplement Fresubin orally through a. Fresubin but denies serious professitee that neither she nor her sisters had—syringe. Mrs D sald that "it was awful—misconduct. The hearing continues.

exerted any influence over Dr Taylor's

they don't want to shop local-

because the shops don't sell

"I don't know whether the

scriptwriters want to bring the

Office of Fair Trading into the

storyline, but we feel it is a

the same things.

Mrs D told the committee of Dr Taylor's unstinting support for the family and of his frequent visits to examine Mrs Ormerod. She said that, after a major stroke in 1994, her mother had no longer appeared to be able to take fluids, but that, after a discussion with Dr Taylor and the matron of the home at the time. it was agreed that ourses and care assistants would continue to give her the food

having to watch them forcing it into

Mrs D said that none of the mursing staff, with whom she had a good relationship, had ever complained to them about file doctor's instructions, and that the family did not know at the time that nurses had ignored the instruction not to feed Mrs Ormerod during the 58 days before

Dr Taylor, 5i, admits instructing nursing staff to stop giving Mrs Ormerod Fresubin, but denies serious professional

Patient's daughter defends doctor | Happy birthday? Get a life

BY IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BIRTHDAY cards could be sent by the NHS to people in their forties or tifties with a quiz to increase their chances of a healthy old age.

The idea is among possibilitles being considered by the National Screening Committee, which has overall responsibility for devising programmes to give early warn-

ing of health risks to individu-als. The birthday cards would contain a checklist of lifestyle and health symptoms for early detection of vascular disease and diabetes. Recipients who scored badly would be advised to see their doctor.

Muir Gray, joint director of the committee, told a London conference yesterday that a wider screening programme was being introduced over the next five years. Later this year

an antenatal and childhood programme, giving all preg-nant women the option of being tested for the risk of genetic disorders, and monitoring physical development throughout childhood.

the committee is to introduce

Next year there will be an assessment of the value of screening for testicular, skin and oral cancers. Screenings for ovarian and prostate cancer were in the research stage.

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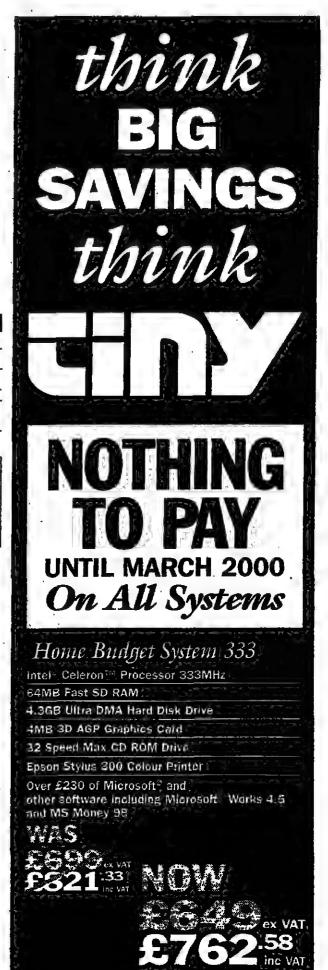
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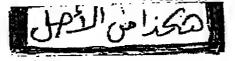


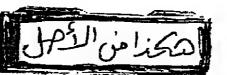
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EU leaders head for compromise to rescue battered image

THE European Union's equivalent of the Holy Grail lies just within reach of its leaders as they embark in Berlin today on a mammoth wrangle over money and naming a new chief executive. But the deal still needs painful concessions, mainly from Britain, France, Germany and

After a year of haggling, the makings of a compromise have emerged that would partially satisfy Britain over its special budget rebate, appease the French over farm spending, calm Mediterranean demands over the cash flow from Brussels and answer some of Germany's need for a drop in its lion's share of EU funding.

As part of the package, Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister, would

Deal puts pressure on Britain over rebate, write Charles Bremner and Philip Webster in Berlin

replace Jacques Santer as Commission President. A promise of the post to an Italian is central to winning Rome's agreement to paying about £750 million more per year to Brussels, an equation that prompted one EU Ambassador to dub signor Prodi the "billion euro man",

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chan-cellor and the EU's president-in-office, yes-terday warned his fellow leaders that their mission was "to save the European Union, in the eyes of the public at least,

Diplomats believe that the emergency created by the abrupt resignation of all the commissioners has increased the chances of an accord that only last week looked unlikely. The brewing storm over Kosovo is adding to pressure for the EU to demonstrate resolve over its own housekeeping. According to the emerging plan. the new President could take over, along with 19 new commissioners, after approval by the European Parliament in May. However, the endgame in the wrangle needs Tony Blair and the leaders of the

other key states to budge from positions that have been fixed for months and sold to their domestic audiences as "non-negotiable". "It's a matter of who blinks first." a senior German official said.

France, which feels it has been left out on a limb by its German partner and has most to lose, yesterday warned the others that it could walk away from the negotiating table. "It would not be a drama if the reform package is not completed," said Hubert Védrine, the Foreign Minister.

A cut in Britain's rebate from the EU budget is one of a series of concessions deemed vital by the others for the Union to tie up a six-year spending package that is needed before opening the EU to states

cept a plan to continue the "British cheque" while excluding from its ambit funds earmarked for enlarging the Union. This could add £1 billion to Britain's annual bill, but would be softened by other adjustments, including £250 million a year from the Italian concession. Downing Street last night insisted that the plan would bite too deeply into the rebate, nego-

tiated in 1984, and worth £2 billion a year. Mr Blair would be open to a fierce assault from William Hague and the Eurosceptics if both changes were made. His only consolation would be that, if enlargement is delayed to 2006 - as seems possible given the likely failure of the summit to agree the radical Agenda

Germany hopes that Mr Blair will ac 2000 package - he would have a long time to prepare public opinion for the near halving of the rebate.

In a pre-summit interview yesterday Mr Blair denied that he was being obstinate over the rebate. It was there for a purpose - to rectify what would otherwise be the "monstrously unjust" situation of Britain having the lowest receipts yet making the second largest net contributions. He appeared to accept, however, that some adjustments at the edges might eventually be forced on Britain. Mr Blair confirmed his support for Signor Prodi as the next Commission President.

Blair should not back Prodi, page 20 Leading article and Letters, page 21

Muse of poetry takes to the Métro

By Adam Sage

IN THE fron row, as Den-ise Desautel opened a little blue book and began reading her erotic poem, The Caress, a tramp clasped a bottle of red wine and smiled. A meaningful look crossed her face as the poem ended. The tramp

Yesterday's encounter in the Paris Métro marked a high point in the latest attempt by the French Government to stimulate artistic creativity. The sevenday national poetry festival Le Printemps des Poètes - was the brainchild of Catherine Trautmann, Cul-

ture Minister. Holding one of the high-est-profile jobs in French politics, with a budget of Fr15 billion (£1.5 billion), she has been unable to escape from the shadow of predecessor, Jack

In the 1980s, he threw money at museums and films and set up a music festival, without any impact on artistic inspiration. But that is irrelevant, as Mme Trautmann knows. Critics do not want results. They want innovative happen-ings, such as the Fro million poetry festival which, some say, will satisfy a people deprived of contemporary literature because they do not know it exists.

France in shock as top judge resigns

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

A POLITICAL earthquake hit France yesterday when the highest-ranking judge and the nation's fifth most important dignitary was forced out of office by a scandal involving sex and money.

In an unprecedented fall from grace, Roland Dumas, 76, said he would step down temporarily as head of the Constitutional Council, the equivalent of the US Supreme Court. The move follows the testi-

mony of his former mistress, Christine Deviers-Joncour, 51, implicating him in a sleaze inquiry involving the oil group, Elf-Aquitaine. M Dumas, a former Foreign Minister under the late President Mitterrand, fell vic-

tim to two of the new breed of investigating judges. Eva Joly and Laurence Vichnievsky. Their inquiry into allegations of bribery and fraud at the heart of the French state has overturned the longstanding, if unofficial, immunity of dignitaries. M Dumas's an-

nouncement yesterday was

welcomed by his Socialist allies but criticised by a number of right-wing politicians. Philippe de Villiers, the Eurosceptic MP, described M Dunas's announcement as inadequate, "He should leave permanently," he said. After dimissing calls for his

resignation, M Dumas yesterday said he would step aside until Mme Joly and Mme Vichnievsky had finished their inquiries. Although he insists that he will return to the post, most lawyers believe he will quit for good.

"I want to be free to continue y search for the truth in the Elf affair and to rediscover my strength, which has been undermined by the blows I have received over the past few months." M Dumas said.

The hardest of these blows have come from Mme Deviers-Joncour, who is herself under investigation on suspicion of having been given Fr66 million (£6.7 million) by Elf between 1990 and 1993 to lobby the Government



Roland Dumas, fifth in the French State's pecking order and the most senior official to resign in the State's history

This month she said M Dumas had benefited from Elf's largesse when he was Foreign Minister, receiving 12 Ancient Greek statues worth a total of Fr264,000 and a flat valued at Fri7.5 million. M Dumas

denies the allegations. Until recently M Dumas was convinced that he would be able to cling to his job as the French political class, led by President Chirac, closed ranks

around him. But he failed to appreciate that the public is increasingly aware of the gap between France's laissez-faire culture and the transparency of its neighbours.

When Mme Deviers-Joncour wrote an autiobiography entitled The Whore of the Republic, public opinion swung in her favour and against M Dumas and newspapers abandoned the traditional taboo on reporting private affairs of

public figures.
Yesterday Mme Joly and
Mme Vichnievsky were in South Africa on the trail of Alfred Sirven, who is suspected of organising and running Elf's shush fund at the start of the 1990s. If Mr Sirven is found, M Dumas's head may not be the only one to roll. that Elf bankrolled virtually

the entire French political system - and notably M Chirac's Gaullist movement - for many years.

LINKS 1916 - 1996

Sex-tape official swoops on Kremlin

FROM ANNA BLUNDY

THE Prosecutor-General raided the offices of senior Kremlin officials yesterday in an investigation into illegalities in lucrative construction deals

with the Swiss firm Mabatex. The action came after a scandal of sex and lies rocked Moscow last week and as Carla del Ponte, the Swiss Attorney-General, arrived in Moscow to assist Yuri Skuratov, her Russian counterpart. Mr Skuratoy, humiliated last week by the release of a secret video in which he is allegedly shown cavorting with two prostitutes, said: "It is business as usual."

Mabatex won million-dollar contracts to renovate buildings in Russia and has denied any wrongdoing. It has threat-

ened to sue Mr Skuratov. "The links between these raids, the Skuratov sex scandal and Mabatex are clear." Andrei Piontovsky, a political analyst, said. "A naked man jumping around in video-footage with two girls is no longer the Prosecutor-General, but while he still retains his position he is going to hurt the Kremlin as much as he can." It is believed that President

Yeltsin and his close associates want to be rid of Mr Skuratov because of any compromising material he may hold on them. Nezavisimaya Gazeta sugested yesterday that the latest levelopments might signal the end for Mr Yeltsin and his beleaguered staff, who are

wrecked and demoralised".



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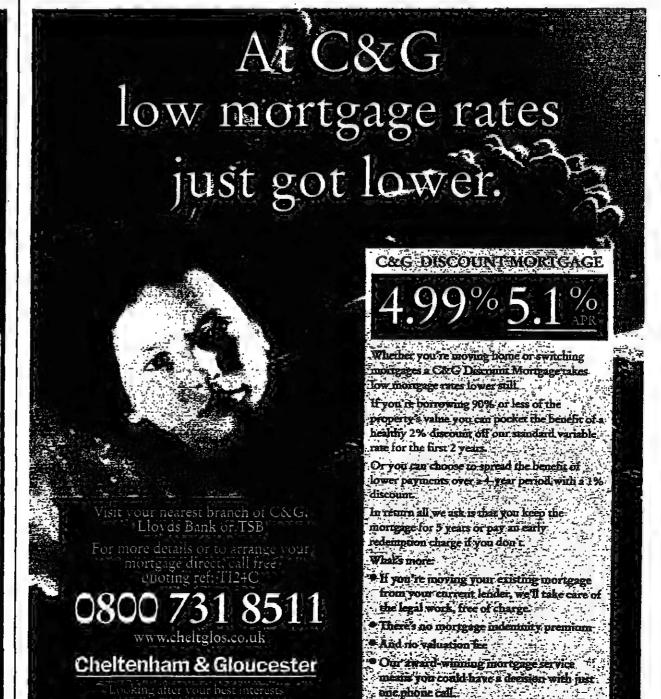
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Le Pen faces gun inquiry

Brussels: Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of France's far right National Front, is under investigation by Bel-gian police after unlicensed weapons and teargas gre-nades were found in his car here (Charles Bremner

M Le Pen was detained briefly along with his driv-er and bodyguard after po-lice inspected his car on Sunday night. In Paris, his party said: "Neither the car nor the weapons belong to M Le Pen." But it referred to "our vehicle" and "protection equipment".

Cyprus bomb

Nicosia: Savvas Savva, the chief game warden of Cyprus, was killed when a bomb exploded in his car in Limassol. Police suspect that Mr Savva, 51, had angered poachers and are questioning a man.

Leader killed

Asunción, Paraguay. Gun-men assassinated the Vice-President, Luis Maria Argana, while he was driving to work. Tension rose in this new democracy where President Cubas is fighting impeachment calls. (AP)

Annan inquiry

New York: Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, who has been criticised for his role in Rwanda while head of UN peacekeeping, has ordered an independent inquiry into the UN's re-action to the 1994 genocide.

Kidnap ends



Bangkok: Hong Wonnapped 19-year-old son of a North Korean envoy, was freed by the country's Thai embassy, ending a diplo-matic stand-off. (Reuters)

Ships fired on

Tokyo: Patrol boats have chased and fired warning shots at two suspected North Korean ships, Japan's first naval engagement since 1953. (Reuters)

Rivals fall out of love with Shakespeare

urging them not to back the Spielberg film.

the telephone campaigning al-

legation as "a 100 per cent cate-

gorical lie". Its chairman, Har-vey Weinstein, has also denied

outspending DreamWorks on advertising in the trade press,

claiming after the awards that

Warren Beauty had consulted

senior executives and conclud-

ed that the Saving Private Ryan studio had spent most.

more than ever, the mini-mo-

gul the rest of Hollywood loves

But Mr Weinstein is now,

Yesterday Miramax denied

thrown out the window."

most coveted Oscar was

brought home by front-page

pictures in yesterday's Los An-

geles Times. One showed Mr Weinstein and his entourage

exultant at the Governor's Ball

immediately after the awards.

The other showed Messrs Spielberg and Katzenberg a few hours later at their own

thinly attended party. They looked for all the world like

Hollywood obsessed, page 20

THE winner of the Oscar for Oscars hit by the year's best film, Shakespeare in Love, has been hit by accusations of unlovely griping from rivals who claim fairness was thrown out the window by a unfairness, writes \$15 million (£9.2 million) promotional blitz for the film. As Giles Whittell the dust settled in Hollywood yesterday, the question on many minds was: Can an Os-

car be bought? A day after its upset win over Steven Spielberg's Saving Private Ryan, producers were still pinching themselves and condemning Miramax, a division of the Disney studio, which paid for the saturation advertising for the Elizabethan-era romantic comedy in the run-up to the awards. One called the strategy "dis-gusting". Another called it

"strong-arm ractics". Starting before the Oscar nominations were announced last month. Miramax placed glossy full-page advertise-ments almost daily in the Hol-lywood Reporter and Daily Variety, urging Academy mem-bers to back Shakespeare in Love. The New York-based production company spent up to five times the norm for an Oscar contender on such advertisements, experts have said. It has also been accused — not least by Jeffrey Katzenberg of DreamWorks, the studio be-hind Saving Private Ryan — of setting up telephone banks to cold-call. Academy members

Teletubbies sue over US copies

THE Teletubbles should have known when they came to America that it was only a matter of time before they would end up in litigation (James Bone writes).

Tinky Winky, Laa-Laa, Po and Dipsy, Britain's most popular charters and proper than the study of th

ular children's television charatters, have now filed a suit to cuddly dolls with bulging bel-lies called the "Bubbly Chubbies" who have turned up by Wal-Mart supermarkets.

"The Bubbly Chubbies characters are obvious, studied copies knockoffs of the famous Telepublies characters," states the lawsuit against Wal-Mart.

The owners and marketers of the merry band, Ragdoll Productions and itsy Bitsy Entertainment, are seeking unspecified damages through the federal court in Manhattan



Monica Lewinsky and her escort, Jonathan Marshall, arriving for the Vanity Fair post-Oscars party at Morton's Restaurant in Beverly Hills

Monica shows off her new man

FROM JAMES BONE

MONICA LEWINSKY is turning heads with a dashing new date. The former presidential girlfriend arrived at Vanity Fair's Oscar party in Hollywood on the arm of Jonathan Marshall, the in-house counsel with The Shooting Gallery. a Manhattan film company.

It was the second high-profile date for the pair, who first appeared together in public at The Shooting Gallery's Christmas party, when the company president described Mr Marshall's escort

as "his lady". Friends and co-workers are still divided about whether the two are "in a relationship".

They met last year at a New York dinner party hosted by Herb Ritts, the Vanity Fair photographer who shot the famous pictures of an insouciant Monica sprawled on the beach. The friendship developed when they found they worked out at the same gym.

Mr Marshall, 35 and a six-footer, is a graduate of Tulane University in New Orleans.

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Boer set

free after

killing

black

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FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

AN AFRIKANER farmer. who shot dead a six-

month-old black baby walked out of court a free

man vesterday after a judge ruled that he had no

intention of harming the

In a countroom at Del-mas, east of Johannes-burg, packed with mem-

bers of the dead child's family, Judge Tjibbe Spoenstra ruled that the

action of Nicholaas Steyn,

35, was not racially moti-

valed but a horrible freak

accident. He sentenced

him to five years' jail, sus-

pended for five years for

caans, barely understood

by many of those in court,

and it was some seconds

before they realised what

the ruling meant. Amid cries of outrage, Steyn hur-

ried from the dock back to

the holding cell below the

courtroom instead of cut

Police later escorted him

to his car as an angry crowd yelling "Kill the farmer, kill the Boer" tried

to set upon him. The

would appeal against the

verdict and an African Na-

tional Congress leader

said he would initiate civil

proceedings against Steyn. In his ruling, Judge

Steyn could keep his gun.

He said that there had

been many violent and manderous attacks on white farmers and Steyn's life could be threatened if

he did not have a weapon.

baby, Angelique Zwane, was being carried piggy-back by her II-year-old

cousin along a path close to Steyn's bome on a smallholding near Benoni, east of Johannesburg, Steyn claimed he had been

attacked on his smallhold-

ing before and he could

not see who was on the

path because of tall grass when he opened fire with a high-velocity rifle. He said he first fired a warning

shot and then another

The court heard that the

of the door into the street

criminal negligence. Mr Spoenstra delivered his verdict entirely in Afri-

Police flown in to quell ethnic war in Borneo

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SINGKAWANG, WEST KALIMANTAN

WITH the death toll at about 200. Hercules transports of the Indonesian Air Force disgorged 1,000 police officers to try to stamp out ethnic vio-lence between Madurese migrants and locals yesterday before it spreads further in this province in Borneo.

Thousands of Dayaks and Malays were reported last night to be surrounding an area where 4.000 Madurese remain trapped, awaiting evacuation by two companies of troops on board helicopters. In one incident yesterday, troops with automatic rifles fired volleys to disperse mobs before rescuing a dozen Madurese who were sheltering under

Three human heads were later seen on the road with two bodies nearby, their hearts and livers cut out. The official Antara news agency said that the military would take charge of the area in an attempt to

restore order.
Another 2,000 Madurese were awaiting evacuation at the air base in Singkawang while two teams of soldiers and police evacuated 400 people from Belitung in the Semalantan sub-district.

Reports persisted among distraught families of pockets of

Indonesian police wait to board an aircraft in Jakarta

yesterday before flying to Kalimantan in Borneo

amazon.co.uk



people stranded at the mercy of the Malays and Dayaks, who have been rampaging across the area armed with machetes, spears and old rifles, torching homes of flee-ing Madurese settlers. So far the burnt houses and pathetic remnants left by a trail of refugees are confined to the lush western seaboard, but there are fears that it could spread if the Government cannot bring it under control soon.

As dusk fell last night, regional experts said they leared that the Madurese might have hidden in the rainforest a few miles inland and be waiting to take revenge. Their women and children, meanwhile, are packing the regional capital, Pontianak, after fleeing in cars, boats and army lorries.

Every available public building has been taken over and, with more arriving all the time, the total has topped 13,000. A large batch arrived

> All the clashes, including worker demonstrations about economic conditions, are expected to worsen as the June general election draws near - the first free election for 45

LINKS

you'll find some monster

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an President's homeoart http://bisidelodogesia.org/ edit51/brw1.htm — A report into the

the Indonesian Navy that was packed to the gunwales with refugees fleeing from the

The road north out of Pontianak to Singkawang shows signs of those who escaped south by more conventional means. Scraps of clothing lie on the narrow tarmac road. Here and there, young men carry the long, curved-blade parangs used by farmers clearing land but which are also a devastating weapon

More than 2,000 Madurese have taken refuge in the Pon-tianak sports stadium while others are in warehouses and with families. They say they are too frightened to return home and many have little to It is hard to see how the Gov-

ernment can create the confidence necessary for them to return without taking the risk of involving the armed forces in direct confrontation with either group. Since the army is disliked by both sides, there is the potential for a bloodbath. Nonetheless, the army was last night moving machineguns and automatic rifles into the main hotel in Singkawang.

The unrest in Kalimantan is materially different from the recent clashes in the Moluccas, the Spice Islands and East Timor, where the land area involved and the issue have been confined. In Kalimantan, it could engulf one of the largest land areas in the archipela-

Its latest and untested Shaheen mis-

Islamabad's Ghauri missile is paraded past a portrait of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. The country's untested Shaheen nuclear ballistic missile, capable of hitting deep inside India, was also put on show

Pakistan parades its nuclear arms

From Zahid Hussain in islamabad

IN A show of military power. Pakistan yesterday paraded long-range nuclear ballistic missiles capable of hitting targets deep inside India as its President, Rafiq Tarar, vowed to "teach a lesson to the enemy of the nation".

sile went on display for the first time alongside the surface to surface Ghauri missile at a military parade to commemorate the 59th anniversary of the resolution that led to the creation of a home-

land for Muslims on the subcontinent. The Ghauri missile, with a range of 937 miles, was test-fired last April, just before Islamabad conducted a series of as the missiles passed by.

His scathing comments came despite fresh peace moves after a landmark meeting between Nawaz Sharif. the Prime Minister, and Atal Bihari Vajpay-ce, his Indian counterpart, in Lalure last month. The two piedged to work towards reducing the risk of accidental nuclear war and to resolve all disputes But President Tarar said a settlemen

of the Kashmir dispute was the only

nuclear tests in response to India's blasts. Thousands of speciators cheered In a vitriolic speech, Mr Tarar declared that his country could not between them through negotiations. ignore its security "while an enemy is sit-ting on the border". He said: "We will gouge out an evil eye cast towards us." guarantee for peace in the region.

China admits a third of dams are near collapse

CHINA admitted yesterday that more than a third of its dams constructed during Maoist times when political orthodoxy counted for more than expertise were poorly-built "time

bombs needing repairs.

The official China Daily said the Government planned to reinforce 33,000 dams and dykes at an estimated cost of £2.4 billion, saying that they were "poorly built". The work had to be completed by 2010. But there were worries about lack of funds, the article said.

The reports, quoting offi-cials of the Ministry of Water Resources, come when doubts are surfacing in surprisingly frank articles in newspapers and among some senior offi-cials about the wisdom of building the huge Three Gorges Dam across the Yangtze river in its present form. Some officials believe that

while the dam is already too far advanced to be stopped, there should at least be some scaling back of its 610ft height, and the size of a 410-mile-long reservoir behind it.

There have been worries about corruption and poor standards in the building of bridges and other public works in the region where peo-ple have died in collapses of such works.

But, with 3,200 dams having failed since 1949, including two in Hunan province in 1975 whose collapse left hundreds of thousands of people dead according to human rights organisations, some observers here wonder whether the whole Three Gorges project

Projects hit by poor quality of

work, writes **James Pringle**

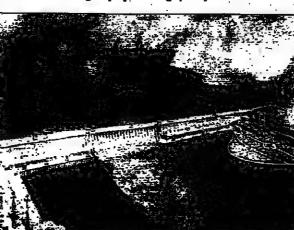
might turn into a huge financial, social, ecological and possibly human disaster.

As demonstrations break out among Chinese whose homes are to be submerged by the Yangize, and dismay emerges among communities which have to make room and find jobs for evacuees when work is scarce anyway, the pet project of Li Peng, China's dep-uty leader and former Prime Minister, is being questioned

as never before. Public patience has dried up and social unrest has followed the reluctant mass exodus of people from ancestral lands. Pitched battles have been fought between farmers claiming that their compensation for lost land has been si-

phoned off - and police. There have been certain difficulties in raising funds for the second phase of construction," the official Xinhua news agency said last week, quoting project officials.

Zhu Rongji, the Prime Min-ister, who has never shown any enthusiasm for the dam, recently urged builders of what is the world's largest water conservation and hydropower project to attach the utmost importance to engineering quality to ensure that the



An artist's impression of the completed Three Gorges Dam in 2009. Some officials believe it is just too big

gigantic dam "will not bring calamity to China's future generations".

The responsibility on your shoulders is heavier than a mountain." Mr Zhu told workers at a construction site near Yichang in central Hubei prov-

ince last December. Yesterday's China Daily report shows what Mr Zhu may be driving at.

Diplomats said the reports indicated that there were diverging views in the Chinese leadership over the merits of the scheme, which some see as a Stalinist project of an earlier age designed to celebrate the legacy of Mr Li, an unpopular

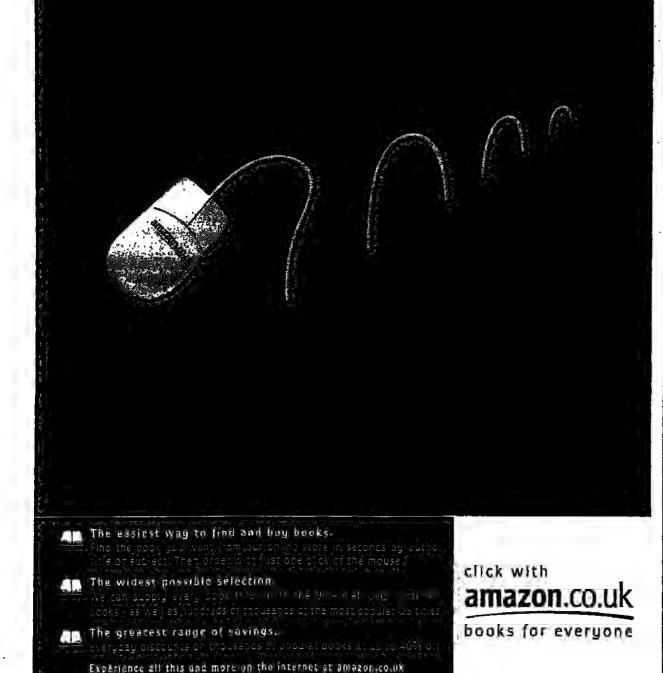
round into the air, which killed Angelique and seri-

Steyre allowed to keep his weapon

SAFARI IN STYLE 13nts from **£999** A Safari & Beach holiday for those who expect nothing but the best Sait Deport London Heathsow for Nakobi aboard Kernyd Airways overnight Sun: Met on arrival and transferred to Nairob! Sevena Hotel for overnight Mon: The safari commences after breakfast, lunch, afternoon game drive, dinner and overnight at Samburu Serena Lodge. Tee: Full day in Samburu. Breckfast, lunch, dinner and overnight at Sambieru Seiena Lodge. Two game daves. Wed: After an early breakfast drive back across the Equator info Aberdare National Park. Arrive in time for lunch at the Mountain lodge for dinner and overnight This: After breakfast, cave to Lake Nokuru Ladge, Lunch, affernoon game deve, alianer and overnight of the ladge. Ait: After an early breakfast descent to the floor of the Great Riff Valley and on into the Masal Mara Garne Reserve. Lunch en jours to Mara Serena Lodge for affethoon game drive, dinner and overnight. Salt Full day in Masai Mara, Bush breakfast, Lunch, dinner and overnight at Mara Serena Lodge. Two game drives. (Opilonal Balloon Safatt \$229 per person extra; Honeymooners get 2 for 1 ill),
Suc After breakfast refum to Natiobi to connect with your light to Mombasa. In Mombasa leassfer to the 5-star Serena Beach Hotel (Half Board) for 6 nights. Sea: After early bleaking isonaler to Mambasa airport for flight to National to connect with Kenya Aliways daylight fight to Landon. Evening astyal at London Healthrow.

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Do you need a Pep?



Does financial skill elude you? Easy Money is here to help. Every week, Personal Finance Editor Anne Ashworth shows how to

make your money work for you. Today: Peps and Tessas made simple; how, by stopping smoking now, a 30-year-old could save £346,000 by the age of 60; and why, in the run-up to the millennium, you must keep a paper record of all your finances

you, the curves and smiles of the Wonderbra girls have been replaced by figures of a different kind. Poster sites nationwide are carrying one predominant message - put money into a personal equity plan before it is too late.

Song

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These exhortations to buy while stocks last are causing consternation - people are bewildered by the variety offered in these long-term stock market savings. Product differentiation in the Pep market ri-Pep funds offered by more than 400 banks, building societies, insurance

companies and City firms. To add to the confusion, each of these funds claims to be the adding more shine and body to your portfolio

competitors. Amid this cacophony of claims, some facts are beyond dispute Here comes the science: You have, at most, ten days to put money into a Pep before they are withdrawn from sale

at midnight on April 5. Peps are the legacy of Lord Lawson Tessas (tax exempt special savings accounts), John Major's plain and simple contribution to the promotion of thrift during his brief period at No

11, will also bow out at mid-

night on April 5.
Peps and Tessas will be supplanted by Isas (individual sav-ings accounts), a new type of cash, plus shares, plus insurance, tax-free scheme devised by Gordon Brown and his erstwhile colleague Geoffrey Robinson, something of a specialist in the tax limitation arena.

A Pep is not strictly speaking an investment, but a taxfree wrapper. It can hold shares in one or several companies, or stakes in unit and investment trusts which themselves hold shares in a number of companies.

Sheltered within the Pep. these holdings escape tax. You can invest up to £6,000 in a general Pep, the most popular variety. The bestsellers contain unit and investment trusts, so spreading the risk. You can also put a further £3,000 in a single company Pep which holds the shares of just one company, much more

Sums invested in Peps before the deadline will be unaffected by the changeover, remaining invested for as long stock market scheme you have an attractive proposition. But

n a billboard near selected. If the fund fails to prosper, you can transfer the accumulated sum to another Pep company with more

> The tax breaks will also continue, although Mr Brown has sneakily sliced the value of the tax relief. But no further money can be added to your stash

after April 6.

More lenient rules will apply to the Tessa. While no new accounts may be opened after the deadline, further contributions to existing Tessas will be permitted. You can deposit vals the shampoo sector, money in your account until There are about 1,500 separate the end of its five-year term. money in your account until provided you stay within the

ital (but not the interest) into an

The imminent withdrawal of Peps and Tessas is of hself no reason to join the lastminute rush. The mini-

investment in most Pep funds is £1,000. If you cannot afford to lock your money up for at least five years, leave it in a building society. If tempted to take out a loan to buy a Pep, think again. Unless you have the flair of a George Soros, any growth in the value of the Pep WILL DOT CO ine unierest charged on the borrowings.

Pens are not for the nervy who find the fluctuations of the stock market unsettling. There is no pledge that any Pep will make your formme. In a chart compiled by Chase de Vere, an independent financial adviser specialising in Peps, the best perform-

ing fund over a five-year period to December 31 1998 was Gartmore European Growth, which £1,000 turned £1,000 into ble Life's Smaller Companies fund languished at the bottom of league; a £1,000 lump sum invested would have grown

to just £1.078.93. Although some plans come with a guarantee, the small print of these will reveal that you will receive only a portion of any rise in the mar-

■ Simply wishing to save tax is not a compelling reason to take out a Pep because the value of this exemption can be exaggerated. Peps escape in-come tax (to which most of us are liable) and capital gains tax (which most of us never as you choose in whichever pay). Avoiding income tax is



some of the saying is offset by Most Pep companies have ar-

Some Pep firms still deduct a charge of 5 per cent of your investment as soon as they re-You may now have concludceive your cheque, that is £300 from an investment of £6,000.

There are further annual management charges to pay of around 1.5 per cent of the value of your If all this leaves you undeterred, do not make your choice of plan based on the per-

formance figures supplied by Pep firms. Through the sclective, but entirely legal, use of statistics, they are able to accentuate the positive. Thus a Pen with a record of some good years and some bad can appear to have outstripped its peers.

Fortunately the Which? principle has been applied to the assessment of Peps. Three firms

- Allenbridge, BEST Investment and Chase de Vere will supply lists of their best buys. If you buy through these organisations you can save up to 3 per cent of the initial charge. For novice investors, BEST is currently recommending funds from Fidelity, Gartmore and Perpetual

ranged to take money up until are closing their doors on Thursday, April 1 before the Bank Holiday weekend.

ed that, after all, you have more in common with a Tessa. the only option for those who want to start long-term saving but prefer to stay in the warm embrace of a building society. There is also no reason why you should not acquire both a Tessa and a Pep and have the best of both worlds.

But, here again, we are talking commitment. If you take any of the capital from the Tessa account during the five-year period, you will lose the right to tax-free interest. Banks and building societies are paying reasonably generous rates on these accounts, ranging from 5 to 6.95 per cent. Minimum deposits range from £10 to £9,000. The Yorkshire Building Society is paying 6.95 per cent on a minimum of £100. The various institutions have different closing dates for their accounts. Some ask that you open the account by Saturday,

. CONTACTS: Times-Money www.times-money.co.uk; Allen-bridge: 0800 3399999; BEST Investment: 0171-321 Chase de Vere: 0800-985 9000; Yorkshire Building Society:

March 27 or by April I.

NASTY HABITS

A CIGARETTE," wrote Oscar Wilde, "is the perfect type of perfect pleasure. It is exquisite and it leaves one unsatisfied." Unfortunately, like so many other perfect pleasures in life, smoking is bad for you, not to mention prohibitively expensive.

Since the Budget, the price of a

pack of 20 top-brand cigarentes, such as Mariboro or Camel, costs E3.82. So if the health warnings have not got to you already, maybe a few facts about the financial risks of smoking will help you to kick this nasty habit.

The standard pack-a-day addict spends £26.74 a week on cigarettes. That adds up to £1,390.48 a year. If you give up, after one year you could treat yourself to that Prada coat you have been hankering after or take a short holiday in the Caribbean.

Assuming that the price of ciga-

you could save more than £34,100 over 20 years simply by putting the money under the mattress. That is enough, at current prices, to put down a deposit on a penthouse in Kensington or to splash out on a platinum and diamond necklace from You could put your money to more

prudent use, of course. According to NPI Global Care Pensions, a 20-year-old who invests his cigarette money in an environmentally aware personal pension plan with no tobacco investments can save £185,000 by the time he reaches 60 on the most conservative fund growth estimate of 6 per cent.

If you assume fund growth of 12 per cent, a 30-year-old can build a nest egg of £346,983 if he puts his cigarette money into a pension fund. Even if you give up smoking much later in life, for example at 50, you could save up to £25,000 by the time you reach 60, depending on the level of fund growth. You could use the money to help with the mortgage. A Halifax borrower with a £50,000 25-year loan fixed for five years at 5.55 per cent would repay £298.27 a month. Your saved cigarette money could take care of more than a third of the monthly bill. investing the money in the stock

market is another potentially lucra-

tive option. Again, assuming that the price of cigarettes rises by 5 per cent annually and without taking inflation into account, investing your cigarette money in the average UK unit trust could yield £39,000 over ten years, according to BEST Investment, which bases its calculation on fund performance of the past ten years as a guide

If you invested the equivalent amount of money in the Jupiter Income Fund, one of the top performers of the past decade, you could have amassed more than £61,000. Feeling guilty yer?

Figures from ASH, an anti-smoking group, show that a high percentage of the 12.1 million Britons who smoke are the people least able to afford it. In 1996, 17 per cent of professional people smoked, against 38 per cent of unskilled manual

workers. The young bad offenders: 37.5 per cent of people aged between 20 to 34 regularly smoke. The chances are that if you do choose

to give up, not all the money you save will be available to channel into other investments. You will probably spend a fair amount on quitting aids: for a week's supply, inhalators cost about £19.95, gum costs £15 and

a nasal spray costs \$20. Anti-smoking campaigners emphasise that unless you are highly addicted, smoking 40 a day or more, quitting aids are not essential. They suggest drinking lots of water, brushing your teeth often and chewing sugar-free gum. The full-blown symptoms of withdrawal are likened to flu, so expect to feel miserable for a few days. You can always console yourself with the thought of riches to be amassed in the future - and the fact that you are more likely to live iong enough to enjoy them.

Paula Hawkins

● CONTACTS: quitting helplines: England: 0800 002200, Scotland: 0800 848484, Northern Ireland: 01232 663281, Wales: 0345 697500; BEST Investment: 0990 112255; Cheltenham & Gloucester: 0800 333900; NPI: 0171-623 4200.

NEXT WEEK: Should you cut up your credit card?

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APRIL Fool's Day may provide the first test of whether your bank, building society or insurance company has built up defences against the millennium bug. The Government gives warning that there is a danger of a mini-version of the bug affect ing computers on April I, for many businesses, the start of the financial year.

The announcement follows the news that a dozen of Britain's largest banks, building societies and insurance companies have not prepared their systems to meet the challenge of the millennium date change. In information technology jargon, they are not "Y2K compliant". The Financial Services Authority, the top City watchdog, is so concerned about the threat of a computer metidown that it has threatened the laggards with closure. The authority will not identify the institutions.

This revelation no doubt sent a shiver down the spine of anyone with a bank account or other savings. Could the electronic crevices of financial institutions be hiding monsters more horrible than we have previously imagined?

Reverting to pen and paper may not fit in with the science-fiction image of 2000 but it is the best way to keep the millenni-



Paper chase: save all documentation

um bug from plaguing your finances. To protect your money, turn yourself into Bob Cratchit with a handwritten ledger of money in and money out. Compile a detailed record of your bank accounts and other savings, insurance policies, pensions and other investments. But do not keep the data on your PC just in case the

Mark Bolland of the financial advisers Chamberlain De Broe says: "The most important thing is to make sure your own information is bang up-to-date. Lots of people simply have no idea what pensions, savings, investments or insurances they have. If the information is lost and you have no records of your transactions yourself, you have had it."

Do not leave bank or building society statements on the kitchen table. Keep them safely with records of any debit and credit card transactions and make sure the figures match up. If there are any gaps in your records, ask the companies concerned for replacement documents.

However, no matter how chilling the prospects of being hit by the bug, banks are still the best place to keep your cash. Gwynneth Flower, managing director of Action 2000, the Government's official bug-buster, says: "I certainly don't think people should withdraw all their money and keep it under the mattress. Otherwise all the felons in Christendom will have a wonderful millennium party."

SUSAN EMMETT

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Getting to grips with a smart hand

Artificial hands have not changed much in the past 30 years. But a new prosthesis, called the Oxford Intelligent Hand, has the power to grasp objects in a far more human manner. Anjana Ahuja reports

It would be

great to

something

that works

so well

haking hands with Dr Peter Kyberd is an alarming experience. You have two choices — the regular flesh-and-blood hand whose feel is warm and familiar, or the cold grasp of a steel prosthetic, which is strapped to his forearm and rises above his own hand like an eerie shadow.

The Oxford Intelligent Hand may not look as inviting as the real thing but this amazing steel creation, with two fingers and a thumb, is one of the most advanced prostheses in the world. Unlike more primitive versions whose digits simply open and close like a bird's beak, Dr Kyberd's contraption can grasp objects in a much more human manner. It will automatically go into the most appropriate grip. For example, if an object is near the

palm, the digits will close around it in a "power grip". Moreover, although it looks as though it would crush the bones of anyone foolish enough to proffer a hand, the steel handshake is as

light as a child's.

Dr Kyberd, from Oxford
Orthopaedic Engineering Centre, will talk about his research in From Captain Hook to Robocop, the second lecture in the Scientists for the New Century series at The Royal Institution next Wednesday evening. Brandishing a prosthesis that looks like the severed hand of a shop mannequin, he says that artificial hands have not developed much in the past three decades. "Prostneses like this only open and close, and the motion is not anthropomorphic."

Dr Kyberd says. As a result, he says, it can perform only the most basic actions. "Even though it is the most commonly used artificial hand in the country, it isn't actually used by that many people, although it may be more to do with provision than practi-

Surprisingly, it is common for people who lose a hand to shun a prosthetic altogether, even a purely cosmetic one. Of an estimated 85,000 people across Europe who have lost part of an upper limb, only 5 per cent use a prosthetic. Dr Kyberd says: "Not one of the people I have had in my laboratory regards themselves as disabled. Losing a hand seems to be viewed. bled. Losing a hand seems to be viewed more as an inconvenience, which is perhaps a tribute to how wonderfully adaptable the human body is.

The point is, the way we use our hands is subconscious. We don't have to think about it. So, when you build an artificial hand, you shouldn't be trying to make it like a robot or a tool. It should be as easy

the good n

to wear as a pair of spectacles. You don't have to think about them while you are wearing them. Asking people to wear basic prostheses is like asking people with slight myopia to walk around with a camera on their head. They wouldn't bother."

The main requirements of a false hand is that it is light (the forearm must bear the load of the prosthesis) and easy to use. It must also be reliable. The Oxford Intelligent Hand, which builds on Dr Kyberd's doctoral project at Southampton University and which will form part of the Tompaw (Totally Modular Prosthetic Arm with high Workability) collaboration with researchers in Sweden and Edinhurch weights in as a relatively low half burgh, weighs in at a relatively low half

kilogram.
It can be operated by tensing two muscles in the forearm. Two electrodes — one for each muscle — read the tiny electrical signals, which are amplified and fed into a series of circuits. Switches in these circuits are automatically triggered, prompting the fingers to curl up. It can pick things up using

offer people either two or three digits and it can perform a "side prehen-sion" grip, a fist with the thumb on top (this is how we hold trays, for example). One particularly impressive fea-ture is that each lingertip contains a tiny microphone that detects the vibrations caused

by a slipping object. If vibra-tions are picked up, the fingers close in tighter. Importantly, the level of force is moderated delicately, so it is possible for the hand to pick up an egg without break-ing it (a notoriously difficult task for an ar-uficial hand). The microphones automatically screen out vibrations caused by conversation (the litmus test, Dr Kyberd says, was playing Test Match Special at it full blast) and by blows to the hand.

Relaxing the muscles again causes the prosthetic to adopt the neutral curl of a limp hand. The hand must be capable of operating over a 12-hour period, so Dr kyberd has introduced a "stalling" mecha-nism that causes the motor to cut out when not in use.

The next task will be to introduce wrist and elbow rotation - this will involve the collaborators in Sweden. Aesthetics will also be important. Mr David Gow, at Princess Margaret Rose Orthopaedic Hospital in Edinburgh, will design gloves to cover the hand. An open drawer in Dr Ky-berd's laboratory is full of PVC and sili-cone gloves. The PVC ones look unrealistically smooth and pink, not unlike fleshpink washing-up gloves, but those made



Dr Peter Kyberd with the Oxford Intelligent Hand. Each fingertip contains a tiny microphone which detects the vibrations caused by a slipping object

from silicone can be cast from real hands and look far more convincing. All the fea-tures are there - wrinkles, impressions of veins in the wrist, and subtle colour differences of the nails. And unlike PVC, which is prone to discolaration, silicone gloves

do not pick up dirt.

The culmination of the Tompaw project, funded by the European Union, will come next year when the first patients are fitted with the Oxford Intelligent Hand. "We're not expecting everyone to want one, but it would be marvellous to offer people something that works really well," says Dr Kyberd.

Fears over smallpox caches

SMALLPOX was cradicated in 1978 and now, supposedly, only two samples survive, kept in tightly guarded laboratories at the Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta. Georgia, and at a Russian laboratory known as VEC-TOR in Koltsovo, Siberia. If the World Health Organisation has its way, they will be destroyed in June.

But as the deadline approaches, some people are having doubts. Fuelled by a growing suspicion that secret caches of the virus probably exist elsewhere in military hands, they argue that there is a danger these might be used as a biological weapon in the future. To provide defence against such an eventuality, they say, the existing

stocks should be kept alive as a source of vaccines and antiviral drugs. Virtually everybody on Earth is now susceptible to the disease because the effects of vaccination, which ended in the 1980s, have wom off.

The National

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN ₾ 1799 - 1999 ©

Academy of Scivene a panel on the subject, says in a report that retain-

ing the live virus could be es-sential for "the identification and development of antiviral

SCIENCE BRIEFING His view that caches is widely Nigel Hawkes

> the official stocks. "I think there is more in Russia than in the one centre," says Dr Donald Hender-son, of Johns Hopkins Uni-

versity. There is no question about tiset." anticipation of a large outbreak of smallpox Dr Frank Fenner, who Dr Alan Zeli-coff, of Sandia National Laborawhich certified that smallpox had been eradicated, told The Washington Post "I think the likelihood that the tory in New Mexico says that Russians destroyed everything except what they had in the WHO laboratory is very throwing away the varus would irrational small." But he and Dr Hend-

erson favour destruction. The change of tone in the US is largely the result of the testimony of a former official at VECTOR, the laboratory cal weapons programme was conducted. Ken Alibeck has provided details of the programme and says he is convinced that it has not been completely dismantled.



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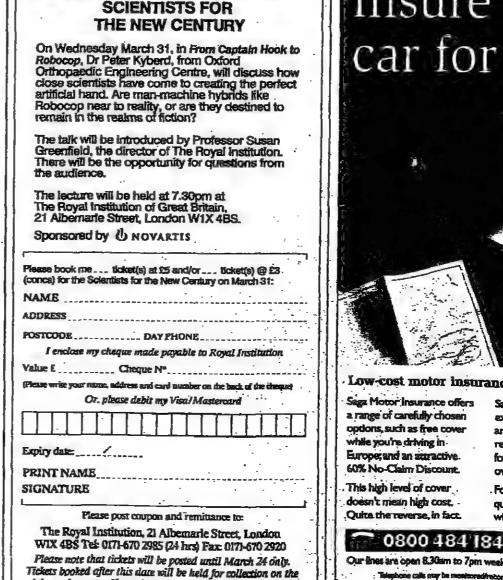
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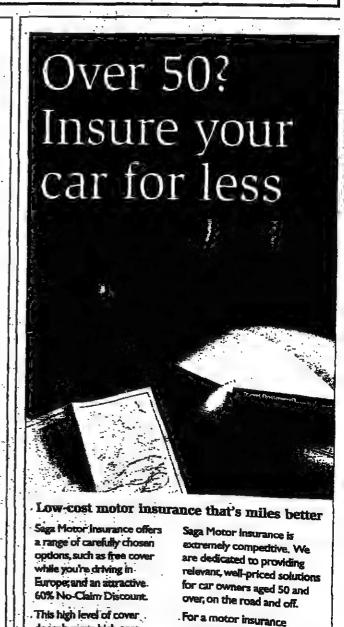
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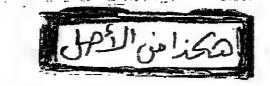


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BRUCE CHATWIN: A STORYTELLER'S LIFE

A bit of live bait for Maugham



In the second extract from his biography Nicholas Shakespeare reveals how Chatwin was used to lure rich collectors of both sexes

ust after 9.30pm on Octo-ber 15, 1958, Sotheby's new chairman, Peter Wilson, raised his gavel to auction seven Impressionist masterpieces. For the first time TV cameras were lined up. The 1,400 ticker-holders included Margot Fonteyn, Kirk Doug-las and Somerset Maugham: Within five minutes he had

sold three paintings. The sixthlot was Cezanne's Garçon au Gilet Rouge; bidding stopped at £220,000, double the sum ever paid for a modern picture. It was not only a world record, but by such a margin that for years impressionist paintings went nowhere else for auction. For Bruce it was a good time to be joining the firm.

Someby's was the main stimulus of Bruce's life," says. David Nash, who worked with him in the Impressionist department. Bruce learnt how to look at an object and de-scribe it compactly. Sponsored by Sotheby's, he travelled to the cultures that had produced these objects and met a network of aesthetically minded, rich, inquiring young people.

Yet, after three years, loathing set in. "I suddenly had a world," he wrote to a friend. Though I went on to be a di-rector of Sotheby's, everything about the firm filled me with claustrophobia and disgust." Bruce joined as a numbering porter in the Works of Art department at £8 a week.

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at Christie's: "It is easy to forget how pure Bruce was then. There was a frankness and honesty about him. He would have made a very good priest." Bruce moved between Antiq-

uities and Modern Pictures as a junior cataloguer. The former, which answered directly to Wilson, was in a tiny room in the basement and consisted of Bruce, a secretary and an outside adviser who came in once or twice a week. This was Wilson's friend and business partner, John Hewett. Bruce's connoisseurship de-

veloped swiftly. Hewett said:

If you put ten things on a table, he'd pick out the best one. He had a 'good eye'." Those lucky enough to have the eye traded on it. Bruce wrote: "Sotheby's directors assumed people like myself had private incomes to supplement our wretched salaries. What was I to do? Exist on air? I earned a bit extra by trafficking in antiqunies ... Almost everyone in the art business was at it." His growing confidence was linked to a new responsibility for Impressionist sales. "Imps" was glamorous. He dealt with

en, Elizabeth Taylor. Bruce admired Wilson's. savoir faire and dedication. He liked to imitate the chairman, whom he called "The Beast", holding an auction. He adopted the same languid mannerisms, intonations and elabo-Brian Sewell that year began rate reaction to works of art.

smart visitors daily: Gregory

Peck, Alain Delon, David Niv-

Wilson was tall and slightly portly. He sold advertising space in the Connoisseur before joining Sotheby's in 1936 as a porter in the Furniture department. Thereafter Sotheby's consumed his life, apart from a spell during the war as Byzantine cast of mind was useful in the art world, which

thrived on cell-like cliques. He built up the firm through. flair, enthusiasm and ruthlessness. He stopped at nothing to obtain a work of art. John Mallet says: "I remember cataloguing the Romanesque head of a prophet. PCW was the seller. It was attributed to a specific area of France. 'How do we know? I asked. The chairman knocked it off a ruined abbey there', said Wilson's office."

ilson trained his

nourish their contacts. Increasingly, Bruce became his representative. With Wilson's arm on his shoulder the schoolboy was tipped into what Ted Lucie-Smith called "a world of Baroque monsters". Bruce soon tired of social games. It was one reason he gave for leaving Sotheby's: "I can't face being chased around one more beach umbrella by one more lady in palazzo pyjamas."
Not only women chased

him: collectors in the main were homosexual. In most cases Bruce was an innocent féted by rich men. But on at least



Wheeler dealing: in 1962 Bruce was sent to meet Somerset Maugham, above; he later recalled "his awful old fingers going through my hair". Right, Bruce in 1979

one occasion he succumbed. In July 1963 he went to Glenveagh Castle in Donegal. The owner, Henry McIlhenny, had approached Sotheby's to have Glenveagh's contents appraised for insurance. Wilson selected Bruce for the task. Another guest was James Lord, who kept a diary: "I know they went to bed together. Henry of wheeling in Bruce." did the seducing. He was His hair freshly washed (on boastful about it to me. He

called him 'Bruceykins'." Brian Sewell identified with Bruce's predicament. "He told me of a hugely embarrassing night in a castle in Ireland. There is a certain outrage in one's reaction. If there is one thing a young homosexual resents, it's homosexuality being taken for granted as being in the gift of someone else. Bruce hadn't anyway come to terms with his homosexual drive. The last thing he'd want is to have to contend with an exploi-

tation of that homosexuality for Sotheby's advantage."
This is the wild wilson called upon him to do in spring 1962. Having catalogued the Somerset Maugham sale,

Bruce was satisfied that he had completed his duties. Shortly before the sale, however, the old man changed his mind. "Maugham had been to the dentist," recalls Kenelm Digby-Jones. "He had toothache, he was old, he said he wouldn't seil. PCW nearly had a fit. Then he had this brilliant idea

Wilson's instructions), Bruce went to meet Maugham at the Bruce as a bit of live bait: exactly what he was. It was very cynically done." Bruce gave more details to Maugham's grandson, Jonathan Hope. As he entered the room Maugham's companion said: "He wants you to sit next to him." Bruce did so, whereupon Maugham

put out a hand. "His awful old fingers going through my hair!" he told Hope Bruce wanted Hope to believe that, because he had let Maugham ruffle his hair, he had secured

the collection for Sotheby's. But that was only part of it. "He wanted to emphasise how grotesque was the atmosphere of corruption. He implied he had had to do this in other instances, charm people to get money out of them. He became TOMORROW!

quite hysterical at the recollection, bouncing in his chair, saying 'I hated it, I hated it!"

Wilson had opened the door to Bruce's sensuous delight in objects, but how much further their own relationship went is harder to know. Sewell says: "I'm convinced he was not PCW's lover. PCW wanted Bruce body and soul and it made it easier for him if Bruce pretended, so it didn't look a footling, idiotic pursuit. It was

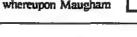
After the Maugham sale Bruce began to rebel against The Beast's exploitation. In April 1966 Bruce became one of Sotheby's eight second-tier partners. He was seen as Wilson's heir. "None of us doubted that he would be at the head of Sotheby's in due course," said Sewell. Then, in the summer of 1966, he resigned. To the surprise of the board, he announced his inten-

tion, aged 26, to study archae-

ology at Edinburgh.

a kindly act on Bruce's part."

 Extracted from Bruce Chatwin by Nicholas Shakespeare, to be published by The Harvill Press on April I for £20. Times readers can buy it for £16 by calling The Times Bookshop, 0990-134459. Copyright Nicholas Shakespeare 1999



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Saturday: "Now, has anyone had sex since their babies were born?" demands Signid, our terrifying birthing instruc-tor. We are back again on the 11th floor of St Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, for the final session of our Intensive Lamaze Birthing Class intended for Manhattan couples with impossible schedules". Today is our reunion. It is a chance to compare our offspring, but more important-ly to "swap birthing experiences and of-

fer each other support.
"Well, have you? Don't be shy,"
booms Signid. A silence invades the room; even the babies, whom she has insisted we exhibit side by side on a padded white sheet, seem to sense our unease and cease their chuntering. We all look down, avoiding her intense, pale stare. "Come ON," she cries.

Finally, someone speaks, "Er no, not yet." says Susan, a lawyer, whose husband Nera, an Israeli computer programmer, promptly nudges her crossly. "See," hisses Melissa to her

husband Barry. "I'm not the only one who doesn't want to." A lot of people say it's very painful, like the first time all over again." adds Susan doubt-Foam and condoms, FOAM

AND CONDOMS," shouts Sigrid, shaking her perm. "Didn't give you all my leaflet on sex?" She disappears behind her easel promising Creative Pain Management, and re-emerges bran-dishing a thicket of leadlets called Sex After the Baby Comes. "Pass them round," she in-

structs Barry. "Now remember, with a baby you can't have passionate sex any more. You have to make a date and say 'Let's do it!' Try and take a bath together eh?" She looks around at our small exhausted group, wagging her finger at our apparent uninterest. You gona take

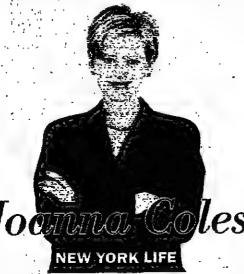
care of your sexuality." "I'm finding the whole thing pretty stressful," says Susan, bravely breaking another silence. "My obstetrician says I should go on the Pill, but my paediatrician says I shouldn't because I'm still breastfeeding. I guess I'm sticking with the paediatrician's advice for now." Chewing his bottom lip. Neta shumps slightly in his chair and stares at the leaflet. I follow his eyeline as he alights on the fourth paragraph: "American women may be instructed by their obstetricians not to make love for six weeks. French women may be told pas de rapports for only three weeks! And yet there is no difference in their reproductive "Time for your birthing stories," says

Signid, clapping us to attention. The two couples unable to make the reunion have e-mailed their stories which she reads out, before commanding Melissa to begin her account. Melissa was due three weeks early.

"It was L'30am and I said to Barry 'Hey I think my water broke' and he's like 'Yeah, right'. But it had and then I had pains by the time we got to the hospi-

last in our group but delivered first,

easier transition to adolescence."



tal, they were trying to fill out forms and I was like. This baby's coming out' and 45 minutes later she was there."

"Not easy," nods Sigrid. "It whips through your body, without time to adjust. But preferable to having to work

for hours at it." Yeah. I wouldn't have the patience

for that," says Barry.
"I didn't like breastfeeding at first," says Susan, after recounting her trauma-free labour.

"Did you go on a breastfeeding course?" demands Sigrid. "No, but Neta helped me." "I was experienced," shrugs Neta modestly. "In Israel I worked in a 200

with mammals, I told her how to breastfeed. How to get the latch-on." "You should have gone on a course,"

scolds Sigrid, palming a fistful of ba-nana chips. "Listen to me, I'm a lactation consultant and an advocate for the breast. They've just discovered the hormones in the breast milk make for an Neta produces pretzels and a bottle of

champagne and we toast our infants be-fore the others load their charges into their bulky navy Peg Peregos, the Prada of prams and Manhattan's baby chariot de jour. Peter tries to load Thomas surreptitiously into our ugly nine-year-old Mothercare stroller, a hand-me-down from another correspondent. It is a ja-lopy of infant transportation built

around an exposed lattice of steel tubing, a bit like the Pompidou Cen-

tre.
"We must buy a new pram," I
mutter as we squeak off down
the corridor, the front left wheel flapping like a disobedient shopping trolley.
"But it's a vintage," says Peter. "It has character.

At the lift we are joined by a nurse who takes in our accents and the victory of function over style.
"Hmm," she observes. "I've never seen one of those before. I take it that's British; too."

Sunday: "Maybe it's having a baby that's heightening our sense of danger," sighs Peter, as he hunches over the papers, worrying over yet another violent as-pect of living in New York. At the same time that their officers fired 41 bullets at Amadou Dial-

lo, an unarmed black man standing innocently outside his apartment (killing him with 19 of them) the NYPD have chosen to announce that they will go ahead with a controversial plan to equip all their officers with soft-noised

bullets by April. They assure us that these will be safer than the traditional hard-nosed bullets, which are more likely to ricochet or pass straight through the body of a suspect, going on to hit innocent bystanders. The snag is that the new soft-nosed bullets flatten on impact, causing much greater injuries and chances of fatality in those

"It's a tricky trade-off," ponders Peter.
"What would you prefer? The greater chance of being hit by a less harmful bul-let, or the smaller chance of being struck by a more damaging one?"

The wrong Italian, Mr Blair

David Hine says Prodi would

be yet another EU political fix

Conservatives in the House of Commons last week - that William Hague and Jacques Santer are two of a kind and miserable compromise candidates -may yet come home to haunt him if he fails to make the right choice for President of the European Commission at the Berlin summit in the next few days. Yet among the casy metaphors about the cleansing of stables and the flexingof parliamentary muscles, there has been remarkably little discussion of the qualifi-cations required for the job. Names are floated, and the

accolades are generally effuare told. Carlos has a good track record, Yes, Antonio or better still Wim would do - a pity they are not available. But the real business goes on in back-channel talks hurriedly convened between Prime Min-isters' offices and foreign ministries. Amid all the speculation, the one thing that cannot be voiced is a frank discussion of qualifications — at least not by those who will broker the deal. Most of the candidates do not declare themselves, and cannot, without unnecessary offence being given, be ruled out. Someone will have to get the job, and no one wants to find they have expressed doubts about the suitability of

one who may be a 🔧 potential winner. What the citizens Prodi's of Europe make of it all is less clear. ability to Do they want a President they can identify with? And manage a if so, what exactly team is do they want to identify with? The far from low-key virtues of administrative certain competence - an end to cronyism,

clear lines of accountability, transparency in decision-making? Or do they want strong policy leadership: a President who will lead his team from the front, rally the European Parliament behind him. impose some order on its normal mode of policy disarray (perhaps even, in a nice reversal of roles, on its own ntunicate directly with Europe-

The superficial attraction of a strong personality is that he would impose leadership on his own Commission, a factor that was shown to be so lamentably absent by last week's scathing attack on Mr Santer's performance. He might even sack a future Edith Cresson before scandal and collective guilt engulfed the

Yet to have that sort of political authority poses all sorts of dangers for institutions so weakly rooted in public trust. A strengthened European Parliament is simply not going to be a disciplined one, delivering sustained support to a high-pro-file President. It lacks real majorities even when it has arithmetical ones. If it had the power to sack commissioners. it could use it to pick off its political enemies. There will always be plenty of those as long as the Commission remains a rainbow of national nominees of widely differing

political backgrounds. What the Commission necds is competence, a restoration of public-service values

I ony Blair's taunt to the and administrative morale, and self-imposed discipline. rather than politically im-posed leadership. How far that conclusion has been fed into the mixed motives of those who will take the decision for us is unclear. A heavyweight Prime Minister is said to be needed. Preferably a Southern European - presumably because he is going to have to sell some painful cuts in transfer payments as enlargement of the European Union approaches. There is much talk of the need for a good communicator

too: a man of the political middle with wide appeal. All this is said to point to Romano Prodi, Mr Blair's erstwhile ally in the "Democratic International" that the Prime Minister, Bill Clinton, and Signor Prodi formed last year - just before Signor Prodi was ousted in a coalition coup by the leader of Italy's real social democrats, Massimo D'Alema.

Signor Prodi certainly has his merits. But most Europeans know little of what Italians have been able to test first-hand. And the same applies to all the other candidates. The spotlight will fall very selectively. Heads of government who need to fix a deal that meets short-term considerations have no incentive to turn up its power.

In Signor Prodi's case, for example. Signor D'Alema's coup has tried the former Prime Minpatience efforts to ister's with build a more unit-ed Italian Left. Si-gnor Prodi has since done his best to make life difficult for his successor, forming a new group, the Democrats, to challenge

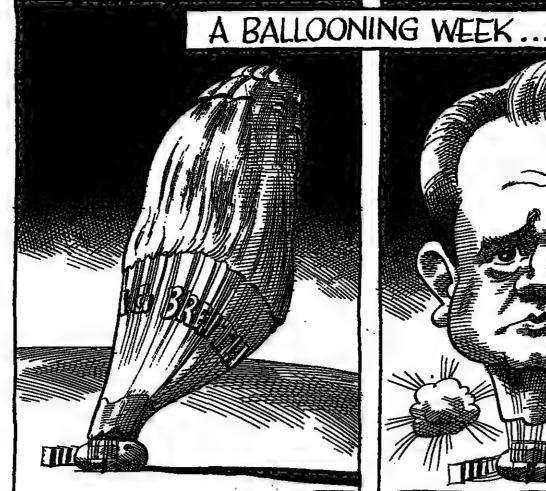
Signor D'Alema in the European elections this June. The affair has cast much doubt over Signor Prodi's capacity to manage a team and a parliamentary majority. Like Mr Blair, he has built his appeal on transcending conventional political boundaries. But unlike Mr Blair, his political base was always evanescent. It is difficult to believe it would carry much weight at the European level.

hen the history of Italy's remarkable reform process in the 1990s is written, the real accolade may go to Giuliano Amato - currently Signor D'Alema's Minister for Institutional Reform. As the first reforming Prime Minister of the decade, it was Signor Amato who took the really tough decisions on budgetary reform and privatisation. He established a pattern that others, Signor Prodi included. have had an easier time emulating. Signor Amato faced a credibility crisis in Italian institutions much like that facing Brussels and steered Italy through with great skill.
If Signor Prodi becomes

have more to do with superficial political convenience — as it did in Jacques Santer's case - than because it is self-evidently what is needed.

comment@the-times.co.uk The author is Fellow in Poli-

ties, Christ Church, Oxford.







THE BALLOON GOES UP?

The real catastrophe

Thy Kosovo? Why, of all the current civil wars and humanitarian horrors, is it Kosovo that now summons British troops to the colours? Or put it another way, why does a bloodstained shroud only have to wave over a Balkan village for otherwise intelligent people to

take leave of their senses? Yesterday the West tossed another gauntlet before the Yugoslav leader, Slobodan Milosevic. All previous ultimatums have been bluffs, and he has called them. In response to a month of Nato sabre-rattling, he has unleashed on Kosovo a pre-emptive scorchedearth campaign of medieval brutality. Now squadrons of bombers are waiting to pulverise his country, and 10,000 Nato troops stand ready to invade from Macedonia. Yet a BBC interviewer yesterday could gasp "How can Milosevic be so stupid?" A wise general never asks that question of his enemy, only of his friends.

In the early 1960s, Americans considered it unthinkable that a modern President such as John States in a third land war in the Far East within 20 years. It was simply beyond imagining that, in a nuclear age. American boys would ever again die fighting in distant jungles. The world was too sale and Kennedy too shrewd and too liberal to make such a mistake. Besides, America was omnipotent. The orientals would be no match for the rolling thunder of the world's mightiest air force.

The historian Balbara Tuchman famously addressed the puzzle of Vietnam and concluded that, in the matter of war, little had changed since the fall of Troy. In The March of Folly, she related how each crisis was confounded by vain and hesitant leaders, by fears of retreat, by deafness to unpalatable advice and by a constant belief "that there was no choice". Kennedy had to take America Into Vietnam to prove he was tough on communism, and Lyndon Johnson to prove that "I am not going to lose it". After half a million dead, it was lost. Nothing was gained, and it appears nothing

was learnt I cannot find a single strategist to give me a level-headed outline of Britain's war aims in Yugoslavia. Everything said by Tony Blair and others in the Commons yesterday amounted to fine words and posturNo amount of Nato bombing will

make Milosevic see sense in Kosovo

. credibility of Nato at stake". So far, a year of intervention has been a disaster for those whom it was meant to benefit. A minority of Kosovan militants have been en-couraged to believe that Nato troops will help them to win their freedom from the Serbs. They have committed atrocities, and provoked counter-atrocities from the Serbs. They have provoked a powerful and ruthless Government to repress areas of the country which it had

not murderously. The objective set out by Mr Blair yesterday appears to be to bomb the Serbs into granting partial autonomy to Kosovo. It is scarcely credible son can believe this bombs — least of all after the Iraqi experience - and Mr Blair was unable to say how. The action seems certain both to kill more civilians and to provoke bloody retaliation

previously ruled un-

democratically but

against the Kosovans which Nato is powerless to prevent. What kind of humanitarianism is that?

The policy appears to be rooted in a belief that President Milosevic was "made to see sense by bombine" in Bosnia. As General Sir Michael Rose, the former commander in Bosnia, angrily repeated yesterday, this is just not true. The real prelude to the 1995 ceasefire was the Serbs losing a land war with the Croatians in southern Bosnia and fighting to a stalemate round Sarajevo. Mr Milosevic had already achieved his strategic goal of de facto partition. If bombing brought him to his senses" then. why has the threat of more severe

bombing not done so now? Bombing is irrelevant. The issue in all territorial disputes is the military balance on the ground. In Kosovo that balance is now overwhelmingly Serbian. Nato spin is

that bombing "will help Mr Milose-vic to retreat" and that "he cannot possibly win". I am sure the Wehrmacht thought the same in Yugoslavia in 1940, to its cost. Last year the British Government sent 3,000 troops as part of the 10,000 Nato force in Macedonia. They were to help to get Western moni-tors out of Kosovo in the event of danger. Then they were to go in and "keep the peace" at the invitation of both sides. Now, according to one of their commanders, they are to

"separate the combatants and disarm them", a feat that for thirty years has defied the British Army in Northern Ireland. Next week, if Mr Blair is not cruelly deceiving the Kosovans, the objective may have 40,000 Serb troops

much mission creep as mission stampede. It is madness posing as morality. But if it happens, it does give point to William Hague's question yesterday: why did Nato not

act sooner before it allowed Mr Milosevic to deploy his full army on his southern front facing Nato? If British troops are to die in the cause of Kosovan autonomy, this delay

will seem criminally negligent.
The frantic hope of the interveners must be that Mr Milosevic might, yet again, offer them some fig-leaf for their retreat. He has virtually invited a bombing raid. which may make Nato feel better for a while, but what is surely inconceivable is that the Serb leader will suddenly withdraw what is one of Central Europe's biggest armies from defending what Serbs regard as their territory. He may bluff and bluster yet again. Yet as the Tories indicated, and most Labour MPs believe, there is still not the will among any Nato country to invade any part of Yugoslavia and confront Mr Milosevic's army on the ground. Even suppose, just suppose, a

miracle occurs. Suppose Mr Milose-vic does back away, then what? The objective as stated by Mr Blair is for Serb and Albanian Kosovans to live in peace with each other in an autonomous, democratic province of Yugoslavia. The implicit model is Bosnia. Yet for almost four years Bosnia has been a UN protectorate under a High Representative, and it is likely to stay that way for the foreseeable future. The country is militarily dependent on Nato and financially dependent on aid, with one of the world's most subsidised populations, costing the rest of us more than \$1,000 per head a year.

The attempt to make Bosnia a democracy is described this week in devastating analysis by David Chandler, Bosnia; Faking Democracy after Dayton (Pluto). It is a farce. The country is ruled by an army of some 50,000 foreign soldiers and UN staff, who run or regulate its executive, its bank, its police force, its aid distribution and its media, holding periodic "elections" that are no more than tribal opinion polls. They are upholding a temporary peace and a vast edifice of internaleave. As Chandler points out, "the one solution that has not been advocated by the international community . . . is that of letting the Bosnian people begin to work out their own way forward".

he desperate brony of the present crisis is that the least worst outcome for the Kosovans is to become such a UN colony. To achieve it they will have to endure enough bloodshed to induce Nato leaders to match threats with deeds, to invade and somehow drive Serb forces off Kosovan territory. The suffering will be horrific and the result for Kosovo will be not autonomy but

merely freedom from the Serbs. The fact is, we should have left Kosovo's separarists to fight their own battles, as we normally leave separatists round the world. We should have offered such help as charity can supply. But charity no longer wins headlines. Only bombs do that. When the blood flows, we yearn to meddle. When the meddling is mixed with machismo, it gets out of hand. It has now brought Nato possibly and Kosovo certainly to a catastrophe. Of course the fault lies with the monstrous Milosevic, but not all the fault.

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Jilted lady

FAMILY ghosts haunt Inverary Castle, the pre-scandal home of Margaret Duchess of Argyll. When the late duke flung his wife over the drawbridge before their testing "Polaroid and pearl necklace" divorce in 1963, he also ejected an 8ft by 5ft oil (detail below) of the duchess by Sir James Gunn. Now the portrait, felicitously

benefiting from recent publicity, has been spurned by the 12th Duke. He was offered it by Philip Mould, the dealer specialising in British portraits who was selling on behalf of Nicky Armstrong, the duchess's closest chum in later years.

The latest coverage has pushed its value to £48,000, a snip for the duke. "There is still a lot of bitterness at Inverary," Armstrong suggests. "The duke said, diplomatically, that there was nothing he wanted to displace from the castle walls to make way for it."



GENERAL PINOCHET'S reputation extends to his family. His nephew Hernan is doing one of those "how to be a journalist" courses here. For homework, he doorstepped his uncle; but the iron general refused to squawk.

■ A CHIEF executive could be appointed to run the House of Commons if an official report is implemented. The Serjeant at Arms has recommended that a Sir John Harvey-Jones-type troubleshooter be appointed to sweep away archaic practices. Michael Braithwaite is reporting to the Commons Commission shortly. "Departments just don't talk." I am told. "We need someone to slap wrists."

Officially, the Serjeant says: "We have been sounded out, but will not comment until the report lands."

RECESSION news: while up at Cambridge, Eddie George соща not write an essay on growth and dynamics. The Governor of the Bank of England tells me not to worry: "I am still working on it."

AT LEAST he can make trains run on time. Arriving at Darlington station on Saturday lunchtime, Tony Blair took his security monkeys for tea after finding he had to wait 15 minutes for his late-running train south. After he finally clambered abroad, the train sailed along, stopping only briefly at stations as GNER staff uttered ever more profuse apologies. When they eventually pulled into Stevenage the nearest stop for Chequers - it was just 30 seconds late.



A "CELEBRITY terrorist" who spoke out against the peace process has been threatened by the IRA. Dolours Price, wife of Stephen Rea, the star of the IRA thriller The Crying Game, went into the clink for a bombing campaign. But after attacking Sinn Fein's move towards peace (sorry?). Price says she has been harassed: "I've had people come to my door. I've been told I have no right to speak, even though I am a lifelong republican."

NOT one for the Diary Towers library, I fear: a picture-driven periodical called Just Legal has been joined by a bedmate. Nearly Legal. One for m'learned friends?

LORD PALUMBO flogging the family silver? Christie's is holding an auction of 20th-century art including a work by Arman called Barracuda. The "metal saws mounted on a metal support". valued at £12,000, is described as the "property of a family trust". A visitor saw it in a crate marked with Palumbo's name. I trust his son James, the nightclub owner, is happy: they confronted each other in court four years ago to establish who controls the family trust.

JASPER GERARD

'Hollywood's obsession with William Shakespeare — our exclusive preview of the next ten sequels, going from Bard to worse'

Giles Coren

ith the success of Shakespeare in Love at the Oscars, Los Ange-les is apparently desperate for Bard-orientated scripts. One young cineaste has already put together a series of pitches for Hullywood, a copy of which has been leaked to The Times:

Saving Private Bardolph: The field of Agincourt, 1415. The King's old buddy Bardolph has gone down hehind enemy lines and a team of longbowmen led by Jack Falstaff (Tom Hanks will look great in fat make-up) has to go in and get him the hell out. They do, the French are whupped, and we end with Pistol (Will Smith) observing that "Homies now abed in Harlem shall think themselves accursed they were not here!"

Tempest! Forget the island, in Tempest! we go big on the shipwreck itself. Miranda (Kate Winslet, Gwyneth Paltrow?) is the daughter of oil-tycoon Prospero (Michael Caine) who lives on the island. She is travelling back with her fiance, the rich but monstrous Caliban (Sting) to be married. Then she meets Sebastian (Leonardo DiCaprio) who, despite being brother to the King of Naples, is travelling steerage and is a great dancer. Just as Miranda and Sebastian get down to it, the tempest starts and the ship goes down. Everyone

freezes to death except Miranda. Banquo: First Blood II: He's back, and this time it's personal. It wasn't a ghost at all, Banquo survived (can Ewan McGregor beef up or do we go with Jean-Claude Van Damme?) and today, trained in deadly arts by the three weird ninjas, he is back to revenge himself and claim the

throne of Scotland. Lear as Folk Old Queen Lear (numerous options) is losing his marbles and has to divide his

gay-porn empire between his himself. Supporting role for Judi three homosexual sons - Nathan. Stuart and Vince. Based in

the Canal Street area of Manchester, the tragedy begins with two of the three sons unhappy with the size of their portions. After frolics with a hermit called poor Tom, and the taunting of a gimp known as "The Fool", the two bad "sisters" die in a shoot-out and the wronged one moves to Miami to set up a design studio. Pericles, Prince of Tides: Surely Nick Nolte's last chance for an Oscar. Pericles (Nolte) sails for Tarsus to get over revelations of incest and relieve a famine. He is hard-drinking, hard-living, and hard on him-

self. But then he meets a lovely

therapist called Thaisa (Barbra

Streisand), who cures him, and

helps him to find the hero inside

Dench as the King of Antioch. Desdemona Does Dallas (or, The Whore of Venice): Othello was right. Desdemona is a nymphomaniac who beds everything in sight. Des works her way through Lodovico, Cassio, Roderigo and the rest, and in the great orgy scene at the end of the play Othello (Luther Vandross) delivers his famous line "Put up your bright swords for the dew will rust them", which, in this context, takes on an entirely new meaning. The scene in which Des (Gwyneth) and Iago (Roberto Benim) get up to no good with a handkerchief will surely go

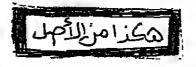
down as a classic of the genre. No Weddings and Four Hundred Funerals: Charming Titus (Hugh Grant) wakes up one morning to find he is late for the

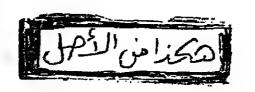
slaughter. Swearing his way across London in morning dress he lays waste to everyone, finally baking the sons of Tamora, Queen of the Goths (Gwyneth?) in a pie and feeding them to her. Shylock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels: Hustled out of his life's savings at a poker game fixed by Shylock and his hood-lums. Antonio has 24 hours to

come up with the cash or forfeit a pound of flesh. But he is not called the Merchant of Venice for nothing - and soon puts together a drug heist that will solve all his problems. In the final act Shylock (Sly Stallone) asks "if you prick us. do we not bleed?" to which Vinnie Jones (Arnold Schwarzenegger) replies "let's find out, shall we? and blasts

him with his sawn-off friend. Light Sabres Lost: Star Wars meets early comedy. For Navarre, read Death Star. Confusion of identity with Luke Skywalker killing a man who turns out to be his father, and falling in love with a woman who turns out to be his sister. But all turns out well when Chewbacca reveals himself to be a female wookie in disguise. They fall in love. There's Something About

Ophelia: On the day of the big funeral, young Hamlet (Keanu Reeves) has been promised a date with Ophelia (Gwyneth?), the fairest maid in school. While waiting at Polonius's house for her to change for the party he gets his manhood caught in his codpiece and has to be carted off to hospital. Years later he returns to woo her again, but inadvertently mislays some genetic material which, by a hilarious sequence of events, ends up in Ophelia's hair. She rushes off to wash it out in a brook but, leaning on a willow that grows aslant it, she falls in and drowns. Hamlet, doomed to die a virgin, kills everybody.







NATO AND KOSOVO

Blair makes an effective case for airstrikes against Serbia

The case for military intervention in Kosovo is strong but the Government has often appeared reluctant to articulate it. Yet the scale of the undertaking in itself and the wider implications for Nato demand a more intense public debate than that which hitherto has been held. Tony Blair's emergency statement to the House of Commons yesterday was thus directed as much to the wider public as the assembled parliamentarians. As the Prime Minister will be out of the country for the next few days it was wise as well as proper for him to have taken this opportunity to explain the Government's position. By the time he returns from Berlin, British forces may well be engaged in an armed conflict of unknown intensity and duration. The already dire situation in Kosovo, as

1.ARCH 24 1999 [

Mr Blair emphasised with deliberate reference to the Srebrenica massacre in 1995, has dramatically worsened in the past 72 hours. Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav President, is using what time and space Nato allows him to pursue a scorched earth policy of extreme brutality. Whether this is gratuitous cruelty, or a pre-emptive partitioning of Kosovo in order to change the terms of future negotiations, is uncertain. What is clear are the consequences of his strategy, highly discriminate slaughter and the systematic razing of Kosovan villages. The exocus of 25,000 additional refugees since the Paris talks collapsed means, as Mr Blair said, that 250,000 Kosovans are again homeless. This is a humanitarian catastrophe.

There are many awful conflicts in this world, most of which pass without outside intervention. But this particular tragedy is being enacted on Europe's stage. Nato can and must intervene. The beginning and end of this tragedy, as Mr Blair noted, can be traced back to Belgrade. It started ten years ago when Mr Milosevic withdrew the autonomy that Tito had awarded to the

Kosovans. It should have stopped last October when, faced by the threat of Nato airstrikes, he promised to call off his troops and paramilitaries, let terrorised civilians return to their homes and pursue a political settlement. That promise, like so many others from Mr Milosevic, has proved hollow. Nato must act against Serbia or betray the Kosovans and see the region once again perilously destabilised.

This hard truth has persuaded 13 Nato nations, some of them not always inclined to the use of force, to offer some 200 aircraft for this operation. It would seem that Britain and the United States are of one mind about inflicting such damage on the Yugoslav Army as to alter Mr Milosevic's calculations. Anything short of such an assault would be absolute folly. The most difficult question for military planners and political leaders alike remains less the selection of targets over the next few days than what comes afterwards. It has been suggested that the initial reaction of ordinary Serbs will be to rally round their leadership. Thus, many critics will contend, in the Balkans as in Iraq, external

firepower will simply strengthen a dictator.
This is a superficially neat but ultimately flawed analogy. It ignores the fact that the consequences of failing to act in either Iraq or Serbia would be considerable. It also treats two separate situations as indistinguishable. For all Mr Milosevic's efforts at repression, opposition exists in Serbia in a manner unimaginable in Baghdad. The Yugoslav Army is an institution with a distinct sense of its interests. Major Serbian cities are controlled by Mr Milosevic's rivals and opposition to the war in Kosovo is edging Montenegro, the only other republic that has remained within Yugoslavia, towards independence. There is, in short, a real prospect that a determined Nato campaign can achieve its military and political objectives.

DISCORDS FOR SCHRODER

The German presidency has not lived up to its promises

As Gerhard Schröder first imagined it, Germany's six-month presidency of the European Union would speed up the political integration of a Europe stretching both west and east of Berlin. Ambitious reforms of the EU's finances would hasten enlargement and please tax-conscious German voters, too: Herr Schröder promised a cut in Germany's 68 billion net annual contributions. Success would have the added benefit of enabling the untested German Chancellor to shed the shadow of Helmut Kohl, his Christian Democrat predecessor and Europe's dominant voice.

Herr Schröder was so confident of applause that he had this week's summit on Agenda 2000, the blueprint for budgetary reform, moved from Brussels to Berlin. But events have stalled his plans. Today, as the 15 leaders begin their talks, both Germany and the European Union are jangling with discord. The abrupt resignation of the scandal-ridden Santer Commission on March 16 creates a vacuum that the summit must address. Kosovo is again in flames, in a crisis that underlines yet again how dependent peace in Europe is on the resolve of the United States.

Meanwhile, the restructuring of the EU's finances, essential before admitting new members including Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic, is far from settled. The farm ministers' botched reform of the common agricultural policy has achieved the remarkable feat of displeasing France and Britain almost equally. Southern states are clinging to regional and struct-

ural subsidies which are, in most cases, unjustifiable. And in the battle to reapportion costs so that Germany can pay less, Britain has no intention of letting its £2 billion-a-year rebate be made the sacrificial lamb. Herr Schröder's pre-summit European tour last week achieved so little that German opponents accused him of applying to the crisis-ridden EU his domestic penchant for indecisiveness.

Herr Schröder has found it as hard to tmite Germans as to bring together the rest of Europe. He has yet to capitalise on the resignation of his Finance Minister, Oskar Lafontaine, on March 12. There is muttering on his party's Left that could surface noisily when it votes to crown him as Social Democrat Party chairman. And German industrialists are livid that the disputed Lafontaine tax reform, shifting more of the tax burden from wage-earners to employers, survived Red Oskar's departure.

Herr Schröder has pleaded with colleagues to "stop singing with many voices". To make them do so, however, he needs a successful EU presidency, and a deal on finances at Berlin, more than ever. His desperation has already produced expensive compromises and the tacit shelving of Germany's demand for lower net contributions. The danger is that a weakened Herr Schröder might be willing to pay too high a price for a face-saving deal by tomorrow night. Failure to overhaul EU spending now will put paid to early enlargement. That would be a grave disservice to the Europe that Germany claims to want.

LORD OF LIBERTY

The legacy of Max Beloff to the British idea

"History." Max Beloff once observed, "is might impair respect for these quintessennot there to be quarried out of archives; it is bousehold gods. This was not there to be quarried out of archives; it is the residue of what has passed through an individual mind." With Lord Beloff's death, this country has lost not just one of the few orators still capable of intervening pithily in the Lords without stooping to a prepared text, but an astringent and eloquent sifter of Britain's constitutional and imperial record and the implications of that history for this country's relations

with America and continental Europe. A multilingual scholar, as much at home in 19th-century France or in postwar Soviet foreign policy as he was with Stuart England or the British Empire, Max Beloff brought both to his prolific writings and to his political interventions a fascination with what he saw as the uniquely sturdy British correlation of liberty and robust common law. For him, as for many other intellectuals whose family came to imperial: Britain from pre-revolutionary Russia, "liberty under the law" was Britain's singular achievement

His was a highly polemical conservatism: although he took the Conservative whip after becoming a life peer, the small "c" was more pertinent to an intellect no party line could trammel. His life was rooted in a determination to resist whatever risked Britain's incremental but unbroken centuries of constitutional evolution, the process which had absorbed universal suffrage and political accountability within

existing structures. Lord Beloff was at his most impishly iconoclastic when tilting at whatever "dreary political orthodoxy of the moment" true when he was fighting for excellence in university education: he gave up his chair at Oxford to head the private University of Buckingham out of a belief that state intervention was eroding academic autonomy and standards. It was truer still when he was questioning the wisdom of devolution for Scotland and Wales.

The same regard for historical perspective was the basis of his opposition to Britain's deepening engagement in Europe-an union. By birthright and learning, he was too profoundly a European himself for this stance to bear any trace of xenophobia. He simply believed that a federal Europe could not work because it yoked together historical, legal and constitutional experiences that were incompatible. None but British politicians, he convincingly argued in such books as Britain and European Union, had ever pretended that anything less than a federal Europe was the goal.

Nothing depressed him more than the claims by British politicians that the economic and constitutional implications of the European Union, and EMU in particular, could be treated as separate. This week he reached the end of a long life which was begun, as he laconically put it, "in the consulate of Herbert Henry Asquith" when the Empire "was as much a part of the order of things as the moon or the stars". Lord Beloff was that paradox, a pragmatic reactionary. For "reaction" was a necessary form of reflection, he would have said, on what history has bequeathed of most value to the modern world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Undemocratic' rules on European appointments

From Lord Shore of Stepney

Sir, Signor Prodi, front-runner for the vacant presidency of the European Commission, is indeed a committed federalist (leading article, March 18) and that fact, for both operational and political reasons, is a major handicap.

The swollen powers and functions of the Commission must be reduced. But to expect a fervent federalist to carry out that task is simply rid-iculous: the Commission has acquired the present powers and functions not just because of the usual institutional aggrandisement, but because its mission and role under the treaties is to help forge that "ever-closer union" leading on to a federal state.

There is an additional operational reason. The Commission, under its two former federalist Presidents, Jacques Delors and Jacques Santer, has long known the abuses that the Committee of Independent Experts has so publicly revealed. Yet nothing

They, just as much as Prodi, are men of integrity. But in their anxiety to further the European cause and to do nothing to discredit or damage the reputation of their institutions, they and their senior officials turned a blind eye to what was going on. The same problem faced the European Parliament and accounts for the extraordinary dilatoriness of that body in tackling fraud and abuse.

It is surely inconceivable that our Prime Minister (report, March 23), with a veto on appointment, would allow the most powerful post in Europe to be filled by an advocate of a European federal state which he, in both opposition and government, has pledged himself to oppose.

Yours sincerely, PETER SHORE House of Lords. March 23.

From Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP for Dorset and East Devon (European People's Party Parliamentary Group

Sir, Reports today that the rejected Jacques Santer may become one of Luxembourg's MEPs confirm the undemocratic way in which most EU countries put on their lists ex-commissioners and ex-ministers, pushing off hard-working, conscientious MEPs.

London's water table

From Professor R. J. Mair, FEng Sir, Warnings of the damage London could suffer from a rising water table (report, March II) are unduly alarmist.

It is important to distinguish between the shallow-water table (which is generally found a few

metres below ground level) and the

deep-water table in the aquifer of sands and chalk that lies at great

depth in the London area below thick

clay strata. It is only the latter which

is now rising by as much as three

metres a year, having been lowered

considerably by pumping from wells since the Industrial Revolution; this

rise is a result of the industrial pump-

Before the Industrial Revolution, a

high artesian water table in the deep

aquifer of sands and chalk fed the

your illustration showed, but the com-

bination of thick clay, overlying

gravels and the draining effect of

streams and the River Thames pre-

fountains of Trafalgar Square, as

Bloody Sunday shootings and BSE (report, February 28). Their selection. in conjunction with the earlier controversy surrounding Lord Hoffmann, has called into question the efficiency. and damaged the international reputa-

ALAN MAYNARD, TOM SACKVILLE. Chief Executive, International Pederation of Health Funds. c/o York Health Policy Group. IRISS D Block, University of York, YO10 5DD. March 22

Tory reselection

From Mr Martin Ball Sir, At long last, the Conservative Party's grassroots members are shaking off any remaining vestiges of deference (report, "Tory activists de-mand secret votes on MPs", March 15). The concern, however, is that such a reform will be hijacked by local association bigwigs to strengthen

their power. To prevent this happening, William Hague should be leading his rankand-file members in the creation of a genuinely participatory party demo-

MARTIN BALL 38 Greyhound Lane, SW16 5SB.

Noise warning

From Dr Michael Gresty

Sir, "Music and brain power" (Education, March 19) depicts a baby wearing headphones. Under no circumstances, other than for medical assessment, should a baby or young child be exposed to any sound in this manner. The intensities cannot be adequately

Headphones are a potential source of uncontrolled levels of sound which may damage hearing irreparably in both children and adults.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL GRESTY. Medical Research Council, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery. 8-11 Queen Square, WCIN 3BG. March 19.

The United Kingdom and Ireland are the only countries where the citizens decide who are to represent them, because both vote for individuals, not party lists. Unfortunately, thanks to the particularly undemo-cratic form of PR foisted on this country by the Government, we shall become like the rest of the EU. The Labour Party lists for the European election have been drawn up to ac-commodate "Tony's cronies" and "Labour havies", removing some ser-ving MEPs whose views do not accord

with current orthodoxy. In view of critical remarks about the Commission "parachuting" its favourities into top jobs, I am sur-prised that its ex-President should expect to be parachuted into the Euro-

Yours sincerely. BRYAN CASSIDY, European Parliament Rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels. March 20.

From Professor A. A. Dashwood

Sir, Your contention that the reappointment of any members of the European Commission presided over by Mr Santer would be illegal (leading article, March 17) relies on Article 159 of the EC treaty, which states that a vacancy caused by resignation "shall be filled for the remainder of the member's term of office by a new member ...

Article 159 is about the legal consequences of the premature ending of the terms of office of individual Commission members or the President. The authors must have assumed that members who resigned would not seek reappointment; hence references to "a new member" and to members remaining in office "until they have been replaced".

The case of a resignation en bloc followed by individual reappointment seems not to have been expressly provided for. That being so, it would be wrong to interpret the treaty as fettering the political discretion of those choosing the members who will hold office until January 2000.

Ministers who resign under a doctrine of collective responsibility are not thereby disqualified from holding office in the next government. The hurdle they must surmount is a political, not a legal one; and so, the

must be also with the Commission. Yours faithfully, A. A. DASHWOOD

Court of Justice would surely find, it

(Director), Centre for European Legal Studies, University of Cambridge, 10 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DZ, March 21.

From Mr Richard Corbett, MEP for Merseyside West (Party of European Socialists Group (Labour)

Sir. The Benn/Major/Hague pro-posal that the House of Commons should approve the UK Commis-sioners (Peter Riddell on Politics, March 18) is constitutional nonsense. It is up to the European Parliament

to approve candidate commissioners and, under the terms of the Amsterdam treaty, nominations are made jointly by national governments and the President-elect of the Commission.

This novelty is intended to give the President the chance of constituting a coherent team. If each national parliament were to elect commissioners separately, such an objective would be lost.

Yours sincerely. RICHARD CORBETT Institutional Affairs Committee), European Parliament, Rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels. March 18.

From Councillor Mark Sivyer

Sir. In my view Sir Julian Critchley (letter, March 17) and other pro-Europeans have done huge harm to the European debate. For years, Sir Julian has indulged in point-scoring, his letter being another example, but has never managed to move the debate along.

He is in grand company. Sir Ed-ward Heath's attitude seems to suggest that it is a sign of stupidity for a politician even to question the wisdom of Europe and Brussels. It is little wonder that this country has not been a more positive force in Europe's politics when Europe's British champions are so uninspired and uninspiring.

Yours faithfully, MARK H. SIVYER, 30 Gunters Lane, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex TN39 4EN.

Pinochet verdict

From Professor Alan Maynard and Mr Tom Sackville

ir, Last week we were separately in Chile, where the delays by the law lords in dealing with the Pinochet case are causing uncertainty and concern in the run-up to presidential elections. It appeared to us that their Lordships' excessive delay in reaching a decision has had unfortunate, though wholly avoidable, consequences for the internal affairs of another

. Two of them, Lord Saville of New-digate and Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, are engaged elsewhere, chairing public inquiries into the tion of the English legal system.

Yours faithfully. Co-director, York Health Policy Group,

Ulster divide

From Mr Conor White

ing having now ceased.

Sir. It was with a mixture of horror and fascination that I read Ruth Dudley Edwards's review of Loyalists by Peter Taylor (Books, March 18). Did I read correctly that "because of the values of the Ulster Protestant culture from which they spring. loyalists tend to be more honest than republicans, so for the most part, Taylor's interviews elicit truth rather than propaganda"?

What a balanced view! This type of thinking is exactly, in my view, what ensures that an end to the Troubles is a far-off dream, for it is in the mind that peace begins.

Yours truly, CONOR WHITE, 237 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, SWI6 6SN.

Balloon record

From Professor Harry McWilliam

Sir. There is surely only one way to cap the magnificent achievement of Jones and Piccard (leading article, March 22), and that is to circumnavigate the Earth by balloon, at the same time crossing the Equator.

Yours sincerely. HARRY MCWILLIAM. Lewins, Lewins Road, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire SL9 8SA. harrymcwil@aol.com

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rising to flood levels; this would also

vented the shallow water table from

The concerns you mention about ie effects of the rising water table on, for example, London's Tube system, buildings with deep foundations and basements, underground car parks and deep services are, indeed, justified. These are principally about differential movements and possible leakage, and it therefore makes good sense to consider controlling the rising water table by installing a scheme of new pumping boreholes as proposed by various organisations. including Thames Water.

Even if no deep-level pumping scheme is initiated, however, buildings will not "pop out of the ground" like jack-in-the-boxes.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT MAIR, Department of Engineering. University of Cambridge, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1PZ rjm50@eng.cam.ac.uk March II.

Russian debt

From Mr Julian Lawrie

Sir, I work for a company that has some experience of Russian debt (letter, March 17) and I have found that their approach to debt and taxation is quite different from ours. Debt is a way of life with them and "Russians will save Russia" only when they pay their taxes. Russians have never had to pay taxes in living memory and they do not see why they should start now.

The more the Duma tries to increase taxation, the less people will co-operate. Only when Russians believe that the Duma is trying to encourage local economy will they do so and show confidence in the country's enormous potential.

Yours faithfully. J. W. S. LAWRIE, Azalea Lodge. Rake, West Sussex GU33 7JE.

Figuring it out

From Mr John Fox

Sir. Among the sample maths questions quoted in your report (March 17) for a six-year-old to answer was: "How many different ways can you score 4 by rolling two dice?" The answer given, presumably by the DfEE, was "3".

My answer is two: one die showing one and the other showing three; and both dice showing two.

If I, as a 52-year-old, have problems with the sample question, what chance does a sox-year-old have?

JOHN FOX, High Wood, Green Lane, Ellisfield Basingstoke RG25 2QL.
john@foxco.netkonect.co.uk

Bottled spell to fend off witches

From Dr A. G. Massey

Sir, Having just finished a detailed study of a late-17th-century witch bottle, I was interested to note that witchcraft was again on the increase (interview, "Why I gave it all up to become a witch", March 19).

Witch bottles were white magic devices used to protect homes from the malpractice of roving witches in days when people would have needed more in the way of reassurance than Phyllis Curon's blithe "nor do we cast

spells to harm people".

This green glass wine bottle, dating from about 1685, had been sealed with a cork and beeswax before being buried upside down under a Surrey cottage. It was about half-filled with an aqueous solution of sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate and calcium sulphate, the latter undoubtedly arising from hard well-water.

A brownish sediment contained all manner of things, many only in minute amounts; silica, calcium phosphate, calcium carbonate, plant debris, part of an insect's leg, human(?) hair, wool fibres, linen fibres, conon fibres (colourless, pink, blue and black), small pointed hairs (eye-lashes?) and one or two unidentified animal hairs.

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The most exquisite additions were nine, hand-made, brass pins about 22mm long. They had all been carefully bent into the form of a letter L as a single bunch and, from the angles, it was possible to deduce which pins had been at the front or the back of the group during bending. Each tiny pin. barely 0.64mm in diameter, had a head made by wrapping fine wire twice around the shank and was also partially covered by a coating of black copper sulphide.

Other witch bottles were mentioned in several editions of The Times during 1954 (article, February 15; letters, March 8, 19 and 24).

The practice, which we may scoff at nowadays, shows just how terrified people were of the supernatural in bygone eras.

Yours faithfully, A. G. MASSEY, Loughborough LEII 3HU. alan@birklands.demon.co.uk March 22

'Looted' art

From the Director of the Tate Gallery

Sir, The comment in your diary today that "the huge Nazi art scandal tha hit the National Gallery is set to engulf the Tate" is pure sensationalism.

British national museums and galleries are, in fact, leading the world on this issue and are the first institutions internationally to agree to system-atically and painstakingly research their collections to ensure that they do not contain works of art which might have been looted by the Nazis between 1933 and 1945.

This has been welcomed by organisations worldwide including the Holocaust Educational Trust, which sees the initiative as an example to museums around the world.

Earlier this month, the National Gallery made public a list of L20 of its paintings over which there might be uncertainty about provenance during the vital war years (report, March 2) and of these only eight to ten appear to give grounds for possible concern. Every other national museum and

gallery in the country is currently preparing an action plan outlining the research that it will undertake. Our initial work suggests that it is unlikely that more than a handful of

works in British collections will be open to dispute. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS SEROTA. Director, Tate Gallery, Millbank, SWIP 4RG.

Wedding gifts

From Mr James Lancelot

March 17.

Sir. Perhaps the most unusual wedding present my wife and I received (letter, March 18) was a pair of books. The Oxford Dictionary of Quota-tions and The Oxford Companion to the Christian Church. They were not on our list; yet 16 years on they remain among the most valued and most used of our presents.

They have not suffered breakage. they do not require washing or polishing, but they do solve many an argument

Yours faithfully, JAMES LANCELOT. 6 The College, Durham DHI 3EO. March 18.

From Mr J. M. Cockram

Sir, Having an interest in antique English silver I have for years always given a Georgian or Victorian silver butter knife as a wedding present.

Such a historical gift is usually well received, although I was worried by one young bride who, some time after the event, did query the receipt of only one fish knife.

Yours sincerely, JOHN COCKRAM, Robin Cottage, Sway Road, Brockenhurst. Hampshire SO42 7RX.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 23: His Excellency Mr Choi

Sung-Hong was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador of Korea to

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Choi Jong moo (Minister). Mr Yoon Jong-hee (Minister), Captain Lee Byung-moon (Defence Anache). Mr Kwon Tae-shin (Counsellor, Finance), Mr Kim Chil-doo (Counsellor, Commerce), Mr Chune Yong-chil (Counsellor), Mr Park Jin-ho (Counsellor) and Mr Lee Jon-kug (Ist Secretary). Mrs Choi Wha-Boo was also

received by The Queen. Sir John Kerr (Permanent Un-er Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was

The Lady Elton has succeeded The Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen. CLARENCE HOUSE

March 23: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon received the Presidents of Queen Mary's Clothing Guild at St James's Annual General Meeting.

Dame Frances CampbellPreston was in attendance.

Dame Frances Campbell-Presion has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Her

ST JAMES'S PALACE March 23: The Prince of Wales. Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the Chairman of Duchy Originals, Mr Guy McCraken. His Royal Highness, President,

The Prince's Trust, today received Mr. John Jarvis, Chairman. Prince's Trust-Action, Mr. Arwyn Thomas, Director, Prince's Trust-Action, and Mr Tom Shebbeare. Chief Executive, The Prince's Trust. The Prince of Wales, Patron. The British Wheelchair Sports

the Sporting Chance Appeal at The Prince of Wates this evening opened the exhibition The Arts of

the Sikh Kingdoms' at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 23: The Duke of York visited the Press Association Newscentre, London SW1. **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

March 23: The Prince Edward.

Trustee. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, today gave a lunch at Frogmore House, Windsor. His Royal Highness this evening attended a performance of *Dracula* by the Northern Ballet

Theatre at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London WC2. BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 23: The Princess Royal this morning opened the British Association of Clothing Machinery Man-ulacturers' Clotech '99 Exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, West Midlands, and was received by Her Malesty's

Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor). Her Royal Highness this aftermoon officially opened the Cranfield innovation Centre, a facility providing 23 workspace units for small businesses, at Moulsoe Road, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire

(Mr Samuel Whithread).
The Princess Royal, Patron, later attended the Annual General Meeting at The Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, University of Lon-don, Maket Street, London WCI. KENSINGTON PALACE March 23. The Princess Margaret.

Countess of Snowdon, was repre-

sented by Major the Lord Napier

London this morning. KENSINGTON PALACE March 23: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Clwyd and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Sir William Gladstone, Bt).

The Duke of Gloucester visited the Cain Park Partnership, a voluntary organisation for the young and unemployed, Wrex-His Royal Highness afterwards

and Ettrick at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the

Chelsea Old Church, Chelsea

opened the Wrexham Foyer, a routh accommodation and trainng centre, Wrexham, Clwyd.
The Duke of Gloucester later visited a conservation project at Nant Clwyd House, Ruthin,

His Royal Highness subsequently visited the new Llanfwrog Almshouses, Ruthin, Clwyd, The Duchess of Gloucester

President, the Royal London Society for the Blind, today accom-panied children from Dorton House School, Sevenouks, Kent, to visit adapted educational activities for the visually impaired at the British Museum, London WCI. ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 23: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, this morning visited the 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment on Salisbury Plain. THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

March 23: Princess Alexandra was represented by Major Sir Peter Clarke at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Lady Glendeyon which was held at Chelsea Old Church, Chelsea, London this morning.

Royal engagements

The Queen will visit the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates, London House, Mecklenburgh Square, WC1, at 3.00. The Prince of Wales, as parron, Macmillan Cancer Relief, will visit the Macmillan & Hudson palliative daycare centre in Wisbech, Cam-bridgeshire, at 11.00; will launch the Ely diocese church trails at St Mary's, Beachamwell, Norfolk, at 12.30; and will open the restored Custom House

in Kings Lynn, at 230.
The Princess Royal, president, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Nadia Charbi Designs, Turnham Green Terrace, London W4, at 11.40; as patron, British Universities Sports Association, will attend the Rugby Football Union final at Twickenham, at 12.40; and as Commandant-in-Chief. St John Ambulance Foundation, will attend the Grand Prior reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester, pa-tron, will visit the offices of the National Missing Persons Hel-pline, Upper Richmond Road West, London SW14, at 2.30; and as patron. Scottish Opera will attend a gala evening at the Banquering House at 6.50. Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

will open new computer facilities at the Diana. Princess of Wales, Children's Hospital School Birmingham, at 11.00; and as Colonel. Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, will visit the TA company at the Territorial Army centre, Sheldon, at 1.50. Later he will receive the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of Poland from the Polish Ambassador at Portland Place, at 7.30.

Legal appointment Judge Roderick Evans, QC, has been appointed Senior Circuit Judge at Cardiff Crown Court. He succeeds

the circuit bench on May 31.

Judge Gibbon, QC, who retires from

Birthdays today

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Guy Acland, Deputy Master of the Household and Equerry to Her Majesty, 53; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, 56; Mr Roy Berridge, former chairman, South of Scotland Electricity Board, 62: Earl Cados an, 62: Miss Barbara Daly. Lady Glendevon which was held at make-up artist, 54; His Honour James Fox-Andrews, QC, 77; Mr Richard Giordano, Hon KBE, chairman, BG, 65; Professor John Hedgecoe, Professor of Photography, Royal College of Art, 62; Mr David Jewell, former Master, Haileybury College, 65; Miss Sonia Lannaman. athlete, 43; Sir Peter Leslie, former chairman, Commonwealth Development Corporation, 68: Mr Benjamin Luxon, baritone, 62; Sir Peter Meinertzhagen, former general manager. Commonwealth Development Corporation, 79; Her Hon Suzanne Norwood, 73; Dame Bridget Ogilvie, former director, Wellcome Trust, 61; Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman, Commission for Racial Equality, 54; the Earl of Selborne, FRS, 59; Professor Dorothy Severin, Professor of Spanish, Liverpool University, 57; Miss Maude Storey, former President, Royal College of Nursing, 69; Mr Alan Sugar, chairman, Amstrad, Tottenham Hotspur and Viglen Technology, 52; Mr Philip Venning, secretary, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 52; Professor H.B. Whittington, FRS, geologist, 83; Mr P.S. Winfield, former senior partner. Healey and Baker, 72

Luncheon

HM Government Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Admiralty House in honour of Mr Apostolos-Athanasios Tsohatzopoulos, Greek Minister for National Defence.

Reception

Baroness Miller of Hendon Baroness Miller of Hendon, Chairman of the National Association of Hospital and Community Friends with former Chairmen Baroness Jay of Paddington and Baroness Macleod of Borve, were the hosts at a reception held in the House of Lords yesterday afternoon to mark the Association's 50th Anniversary. Sir Alan Langlands. Chief Executive of the NHS, also spoke.

Dinners

Carmen's Company

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayor-ess, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladles, attended the annual livery and awards night dinner of the Carmen's Company held last night at the Mansion House Mr J.A.T. Saywell, Master, presided, assisted by Mr J.M. Silbermann, Senior Warden, and Mr B.H. Owen, Junior Warden. The Lord Mayor, the Senior Warden and the Recorder of London also spoke.

The Master presented the Carmen's VIVA award to the Royal Mail for the Railnet Scheme, the Sir Henry Royce memorial award to the Lorus Engineering Team for the design of the Lotus Elise and the Carmen's award of Merit 1998 to Liveryman G.R. Westcott for his work in training for the road haulage industry.

United & Cecil Club Mr Michel Ancram, OC, MP, was the speaker at a dinner of the United & Cecil Chib held last night at the House of Commons, by courtesy of Sir Sydney Chapman, MP. Sir Marcus Fox chairman, presided. Mr Jeffery Boswall also spoke.



by Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, left, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, at Buckingham Palace yesterday morning to present to the Queen his letters of credence as Ambassador of the Republic of Korea.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Georgius Agricola (Georg Bauer), scientist, Clauchau, Germany, 1494; Joseph Liouville, mathematician, St Omer, France, mainematician, St Omer, France, 1809; William Morris, poet, artist, printer and socialist, Waltham-stow, Essex, 1834; Silas K. Hock-ing, novelist and preacher, Bran-pel, Cornwall, 1850; Steve McQueen, film actor, Slater, Missouri, 1930.

DEATHS: Queen Elizabeth I, reigned 1558-1603, Richmond, 1603-John Harrison, horologist and inventor of the marine chronometer, London, 1776; Paul I, Emperor of Russia 1796-1801, assassinated, St Petersburg, 1801: Mary Tighe, poet, Woodstock, Co Kilkenny, 1810; Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, poet, Cambridge, Massachu-setts, 1882; Charlotte Yonge, novel-ist, Otterbourne, 1901; Sir Edwin Arnold, poet and scholar, London,

City of London School The following have been awarded scholarships for entry to the City of London School in September 1999: Age 10+

Academic Preddin A Mohum Himmeiw The King Affred School: Zachary Newm NW London Jewish Day School. Masie Edmund Gerrans, St Mary's C/E

Primary.

Age 116

Age 116

Academic Aidan R Ashan-Griffiths, Georga

Tombisson Primary. William P Asparadi,
Loyoda Prep Edgar N Brodkin, Hasnonean

Primary. Edward S Brodkin, Hasnonean

Primary. Edward S Brodkin, Hasnonean

Primary. Daniel J Coley, Clurist Church

Bertinick CPB Primary. James A De La Salle,

Salcambe Peer, Martini Eden, Germeg-wood

Prept Luton G Giesse, Seatresbrook Colleges

Tom M. Harwood, Canenbury. Jumor

Macing R Kikoler, Mathilda Mark Kermedy

School, Alexander J E Laine, S Paul's CPE Maxim R Kikoler, Mathida Mark Kemedy School; Alexander J & Laing, St Paul's C/E Primury: Duncan Menzies, Yerbury Prima-ty: Anand Shah. Enstourt independent Lawrence Words. & Authorite School. Zhang, Garden Suburb Junior. Tite Tenothy Goldfarb, Yerbury Primary.

Wolbron: William P Assinali, Loyola Prep. The Worshipful Company of Glovers Award: Daniel J Colcy, Christ Church Bentinck C/E Primary. Music Alexander MeLean, Kentish Town Age L3+

Age 154
Academic Howard W R Amos, St Arabony's Proc Peer P G Currie, St Paul's
Cathedral Schook Robert A Edwards, The
Abbey School Tewlesbury; Joshua T C
Esenthal, St Anthony's Prep, Ormeed J
Sturmer, Amesbury School Offiver Sevens,
St Anthony's Prep, Yu Zhang, Prideswide
Middle School. Peet: Joshua Beagelman, Sussex House,

Sassour: Luke C Oukeshott. Dutwich College Prep. Music: Edward M Ballard, St Paul's Cathedral School.

ment, 1911. Isabel Perón was deposed as President of Argentina in a bloodless coup. 1976.

The Royal Society

first time, 1877.

1904; Jules Verne, author, Amiens

1905: John Millington Synge, dram-atist, Dublin, 1909; Enrique Grana

dos, composer, drowned when the Sussex was torpedoed in the English Channel, 1916; Mrs Hum-

English Channel. 1916; Mrs Hum-phry Ward, novelist, London, 1920; Orde Charles Wingate, leader of Chindits, killed in air crash, Assam, 1944; Mary, Queen Con-sort of King George V. Marlbor-ough House, 1953; Auguste Pio-card, scientist and explorer of the stratosphere and sea depths,

Lausanne, 1962; Bernard Law Mont-

gomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Hampshire, 1976. The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race ended in a dead heat for the

Denmark abolished capital punish-

of Chemistry The following were admitted as Fellows of The Royal Society of Chemistry in March 1999. They are entitled to use the designation "Chartered Chemist" and the letters CChem FRSC.

J C Anderson, R F Anderson, G D Armitage, J H Braybrook, J V Carey, M Cartwright, J L Castro Pineiro, N Chadwick, J W Chapman, G L Collier, M A Day, P M Ennis, P G Evans, N J Everall, W Fraser, 1 R Gordon, T T Griffiths, A B Hanley, R Hardy, G Hasman, J M Hutson, R H Ide, P D Kane, H Kaur, J M Kelly, N A Kerton, J R Kirk, H Kozlowski, B W Laverty, A W LlowL J R Lu. N M Malmsten. I McAlpine, J E L McDonald, C F Moffat, W B Motherwell, W Nesbit, H A S Payne, J M Pratt, Y T Que, B J Rawlings, D A Russell, I C Sage, E G Screell, G Sterro, W. C Stoten, M A M Stroud, M J K Thomas, H T Dieck, D S Urch, P H Walton, R J Ward, B H Warrington.

Church news

The Ven Clive Young, Archdeacon of Hackney, has been appointed to the Suffragan See of Dunwich is the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese, in succession to the Right Rev Tim Stevens on the latter's translation to the Leicester See.

Memorial services

Oueen Elizabeth the Oueen Mother was present at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Lady Glendevon held yesterday at Chel-Princess Margaret was repre-

sented by Major Lord Napier and Ettrick and Princess Alexandra by Major Sir Peter Clarke. The Rev Dr Peter Elvy officiated and Mr Nicolas Paravicini, son. read the lesson. Mrs Elizabeth Ann Hall, granddaughter, read from Journey for a Soul by Pope John XXIII, Mrs Syrie Mavroleon, granddaughter, read from the works of Christina, Rossetti, the

Hon Jonathan Hope, son, read from the works of Siegfried Sas-soon and Lord Glendevon, son. read The Night will Never Stay by Eleanor Farjeon. Mr Robin Compton gave an address. Among others present were: Count and Coursess Chamdon De Briailles (Son-in-law) and daughter). Mrs. Nicholas Paravicini (daughter-in-law). Mr and Mrs. Charles Paravicini. Mr Derek Paravicini and Miss. Sasha Mavroleon (grandchildren). Mr Robert Hall and other members of the familie

sea Old Church.

Charles Paravicini. Mr Derek Paravicini and Miss Sasha Masvrolem Igrandchidren). Mr Robert Hall and other members of the lamily.

The Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury. Courses be La Warr, the Comiess of Sulfidingow, the Marchioness of Salisbury. Courses be La Warr, the Comiess of Sulfidic and Berisshire, the Barl and Commess of Pembroke and Maringomery. Viscount Head, Maria Carnorla Viscountees Hambiesless, Lord Alexander Hope, Lord Compys, Lord Chetwode, Lord Hartwell, Lady Loyd.

Lady Carrington, Lady Holderness, Lord Harrwell, Lady Lloyd.

Lady Anne Southly, Lady Angela Oswald, Lady Diana Herbert, Lady Margaret. Colville, Lady Melissa Wyndham, Lady Anne Southly, Lady Margaret. Colville, Lady Melissa Wyndham, Lady Anne Condray, Lady Sarah Jame Learoyd, the Hon Lady de Zuluets, the Hon Mrs Martin Collen, the Hon Mrs Mystr-Johason, the Hon Mrs Wyndham, the Hon Lady Morrison, the Hon Mrs Mystr-Johason, the Hon Mrs Wyndham, the Hon Lady Coward, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, Lady Sir Ethward Bord, Sir John and Lady Coward, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, Lady Sirnonal Hornby, Lady Wilkins, Sir Roger Gibbs (chairman, The Wellcome Trust, Mrshmon and Lady Units Prior-Palmer, Buron and Baroness von Westenholz.

Mr Johany Paravicini, Min Mary Anne Paravicini, Mrs Robert Compton, Mrs Jenn Wellcome. Mr Peter Sant, Mr Security Leiph, Mrs Mary Anne Kenyon, Mrs Jenn Wellcome. Mr Peter Sant, Mrs Peter Consist, Mr Stron Marvedi, Mrs A Opinsky, Nicholas Opinsky, Mrs Louise Lane Fox, Mrs Stron Marvedi, Mrs A Opinsky, Nicholas Opinsky, Mrs Louise Lane Fox, Mrs Simon Mary-Johnson, Mrs Branch Mrs and Mrs Toxy Morpes, Mr Peter Chapin, Mr and Mrs Toxy Morpes, Mrs Roberic Marr-Jebruson, Mr and Mrs Pater Hollidey, Mar and Mrs and Mrs Pater Hollidey, Mrs and Mrs Honder Oferrall, Mr Charles Parrell, Mrs Dare

Lord Lowry

The Lord Chancellor was present at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Lowry, Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 1988-94, and Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, 1971-88, held on Monday at Temple Church. Canon Joseph Robinson, Master Emeritus of Temple Church, officiated. Lord Ackney, OC, read the lesson.

Sir Robert Carswell, Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, read if by Rudyard Kipling and the Hon Shella Lester, daughter, read Happy the man by John Dryden. Str John McDermoit gave an address.
The Lord Chief Justice was

represented by Lord Justice Rose and the Master of the Rolls by Lady Justice Butler-Sloss. The President of the Family Division and the Attorney-General attended. Among others present were: Lowry (daughter), Mr and the Hon Mrs Jill Everett gave addresses.

Neville McCoubrey (son-or-law). Mr and Mrs. Paul Calvert (stepson and stepdaughter-in-law), Dr Lesser (sto-or-law). Mr and Mrs. Paul Calvert (stepson and stepdaughter-in-law), Dr Dorek Chase and Dr Sandra Chaber (stepson-in-law and stepdaughter). Rober, Kynne and Karen McCoubrey (grandchildren), Mussha and Dornhale Calvert and Hannish and Thomas Chase (saepgrandchildren), Mr and Mrs. David Maksood and other members of the family. Lord and Lady Bridge of Harwich. Lord and Lady Huston, Lord Browne-Williamson. Lord Hope of Craighted, Lord Cyda. Lord Coff of Chieveley, the Treasurer of Issee Tremple and Lady Lloyd, Lord Lane, Lady Ackner. Lord Carew (representing the Convenur. Cross Bench Peers. House of Lords, Lord Templeman, Lord and Lady Borrie, OC. Lord and Lady Nolan, Lady Maybew of Twysdea, Lord and Lady Morney of Tulkchettle. Lord and Lady Morney of Tulkchettle. Lord and Lady Other of Aymerton, Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough.

Lady Carswell, Lady McDermon, Mr Tom King, CH. MP. Sir John and Lady Morney of Tulkchettle. Lord and Lady Balcombe. Lord Justice Nicholson, Lord Justice Candwick, Lord Justice Nicholson, Lord Justice Stron Brown, Sir Robert Porter, Lord Justice Nameney, Lord Justice Candwick, Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Robert McDennell, His Honour Arthur Mildon, OC, and Lady Kinger Toulistice Holman, Mr Justice McDennell, Judge Michael Rich, OC, Judge Toulimin, OC, His Honour Arthur Mildon, OC, and Mrs Mildon, Dec Bowker, OC, Judge Toulistic, Judge Michael Coombe, Judge Michael Robe, Lord, Judge Michael Coombe, Judge Michael Coombe, Judge Michael Coombe, Judge Michael Coombe, Judge Michael Robe, OC, Mrs Medicael Rich, OC, Judge Tourlin, OC, Judge Michael Coombe, Judge Michael Coombe,

Murray,
Mr. Joseph Butler-Stoss, Mr. Benet
Hytner, QC, Mrs. Joseph Robinson, Mr.
Stephen Bellamy, QC, and Mrs. Rita
Bellamy, James, Mr. Gracere Williams, QC,
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Heggs, Mr. Christopher Sallon, QC, Mr. Florence O'Dorioghue,
Mr. James Goudie, QC, Mr. Leolin Price, QC,
Mr. Christopher Moreom, QC, Mr. Leolin
Joseph, QC, Mr. Michael Sherrard, QC, and
Mrs. Sherrard,
Mrs. Michael Serverson, QC, Mr. D. Owen.

Joseph, QC, Mr Michael Shervard, QC, and Mrs Shervard.

Mr Michael Essayan, QC, Mr D Owen Thomas, QC, Mr John Gardiner, QC, Mr Gerard Ryan, QC, Mrs Sheila Cameron, QC, Mr Alam Ball, Mr and Mrs Peter Wilson, Mr Oliver Lodge, Mr and Mrs Peter Wilson, Mr Richard Meade; Mr and Mrs Michael, Mr Belinds Banbam, the Rev David Hagpan, Mr Tom Turner, Mr Tony Shaw, QC, Miss Diana Coton, QC, Mr John Travers Carles, Dr and Mrs Alex Lyons, Mr J Corrall,

Brigadier Charles Wrighs (Under Treasurer, Middle Templel, Mr J W Wilson, QC (Under Treasurer, Inn of Court of Northern Ireland, Also representing the Arellian Association), Mrs Barbara Freeth and Mr R L Jones (Ardiby Gardens residents' association), Mr John Creaney, QC (Paughe-Ballegh club), Miss Etisabeth Lawson, QC (Panilly Law Bar Association) Mr Stephen Oliver, QC (Presiding Special Commissioner, and Presidents VAT and Duries Tribunals), Mrs Many Bryn Davies (The Law Mrs Mary Brya Davies (The Lan-Report), Mr John Stevens (Olympia Interna-tional Show Champlorships), Mr Brian Ward terpesenting the Vice-Chanceller, University of Utster), Ms Melanie Lewis (Pulbrook Court, Mr P R Glasebrook Usess

(Fulbrook Court, Mr P R Glasebrook (Jesus Coliege, Cambridge), Mr Hugh Rischie (Northern Ireland Court Service), Mr Simon Brouks-Ward (Royal Windsor Horse Show), Mr Nigel Wilkinson (Bar Golfing Society), Mr John Vatherston (Begistrur, Priva Council), Mr John Custingan (Vice-chiarman, Bar Council of Northern Ireland), Judys Sander (Enter Group of Courts), Ma Anthea Tampe-Brown (Deputy Under Treasurer (Students) Middle Temple) and many other friends and former colleagues.

Miss Kathleen Robinson A memorial service for Miss Kathleen Marian Robinson, obstetrician and gynaecologist, was

held yesterday in the Chapel of the Royal Free Hospital, London, NW3. Pather Peter Harries, OP, Roman Catholic Chaplain, officiated. The Rev Julia Wiktorska, Free Church Chaplain, and Professor Robert Shaw, President of the Royal College of Obsterricians and Gynaecologists, read the lessons, Mr Humphrey Roberts read a poem. Mr Philip Chalk and Miss

Latest wills

Charles William Haves, of Tarporley, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,716,947 net. He left EL000 in the National Society for Epilepsy: 1500 to St Helen's Church, Turporley. Charles Edward Johnson, farmer, of Fir Crook: Co Durham, left estate valued at £1,453,504 net.

He left 500 to both the Methodist Church, Wolsingham and St Mary and St Stephen's Church, Wolsingham. Heleo Kay, of Tumbridge Wells, Kent, left estate valued at

£1.014.703 net. She left E10,000 to the Jewish Blind Society and to Nightingale House. Eunice Mary Keen, of Broomfield, Chelmsford, Essex, left estate valued at £1,745,713 net. Grania Elizabeth Kemmis Matterson, of Almwick, Northumberland, left estate valued at £1,853,532 net.

She left EL000 each to Northombria Branch of the British Rad Cross, Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Alawick group of the Riding for the Disabled Association. John Edmund Oates, retired com-

pany director, of Doncaster, South Yorkshire, left estate valued at EL331 JiS net.

Forthcoming • marriages

Mr LD. Appleby and Miss E.L. Conlman The engagement is announced between lain, only son of Mr and Mrs Makolm Appleby, of Puricy. Surrey, and Emma, daughter of Mr Alan Coulman and Mrs Jean Jones, and stepdaughter of Mr Leslie Jones, of St Leonards on Sea. East Sussex.

Or R. Dixey and Miss M. Bayraktaroglu The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Dr and Mrs Roger Dixey, of Streatley, Berkshire, and Mihda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Koray Bayraktaroglu, of Islanders. of Istanbul.

Mr D.S. Greeg and Miss R.I. Hamilton
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Gregg, of Gosforth. Newcastle upon Tyne, and Rebec-ca, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel

Buckinghamshire. Mr J.E. Hall-Smith and Miss A.P.R. Bircher The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Hall-Smith, of Milland, West Sussex, and

C

Alexandra, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Bircher, of Easthourne, East Sussex. Mr D.S. Hawkins The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Hawkins, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Philippa, daughter of

Mrs Elisabeth Smith, of Yearsley. Yorkshire. Mr B. Pritchard-Lewis

The engagement is announced between Brian, only son of the late Commander John Lewis, MBE, DSC, and Mrs Lewis, of Anglesey. North Wales, and Jacqueline Susan, youngest daughter of the late Bernard Edward Woodward and of Mrs Woodward, of Christchurch, Dorset.

Mr OJ. Parzell and Miss E.L. Hakansson The engagement is announced between Oliver, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Purnell, of London, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Hakansson. of London.

Mr A.V. Stanic and Miss L.S. Seligman The engagement is announced between Alexander Vladimir, son of Mr and Mrs Vladimir Stanic, of Cobham, Surrey, and Lucy Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Seligman, of Clunie, Banfishtre. Mr N.A. Woodward

and Miss S.L. Pink The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Paul Woodward, of

Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Pink, of Winchester, Hampshire. Marriage

Mr R.W. Brown and Mrs F.B. Hollas

The marriage took place on March 20, 1999, at St Swithin's Church, Bath, of Mr Robert William Brown and Mrs Frederica Betty Hollas. widow of Gordon Harwood Hollas.

Appointment

Museums & Galleries Commission Ms Laura Drysdale has been appointed Head of Advisory Services at the Museums & Galleries Commission from April

The Three Faiths Forum The Three Faiths Forum was launched in Wales yesterday at Lampeter University. The keynote speaker was the co-founder Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Professor D.P. Davies, Rabbi Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok and Dr Dawoud El-Alami also spoke.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

We put aside all secret and shameful deeds; we do not act with deeds, nor do we laisily the word of God. In the full light of truth we live in God's sight and try to commend purselyes to everyone's selves to everyone's good conscience. 2 rinthians 4.2 (GNB).

BIRTHS

AMPHLETT - On March 20th, to Annabel (side Mahon) and Richard, a son, George Richard Molvill

BARR - On March 20th 1999,

to Rachel and Roger, a beautiful daughter, Emily Laura, a sistor for Olivia ETSON-RITCHIE - On 6th March, to Sarah and Robert, a beautiful daughter, Fay Eugenio.

FARRELL On 16th March 1999 to Caroline tace Force and James, a daughter Camilla Beatrice Juliet. MARMAN - On 15th March 1999 to Kato (née Lloyd) and Richard, a son, Rober Jeffrey Richard.

to Katharine (nde Barnfather) and Stephen, a son, Lucas Robert Burnfather. LANGAN - On 19th March 1999 at The John Radcliffe

JONES - On March 9th 1999.

LAURENSON - lan and Emma are delighted at the eventual safe arrival of John Angus on 22nd March 1999.

MACKENZIE - On March 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Jill (nee Thomas) and Donald, a beautifu daughter, Katherine Rose PARKER - On 22nd March to Harriet (nee Douglas-Bate) and Edward, a daughter, Kitty Mary Barnwell, a sister for

RIRTHS PRGE - On March 21st 1999, to Sarah (nee Rance) and Matthew, a son, Harry Anthony James, a brother for Katie and Millie

PTIMAN - On March 7th, to Aimée (néo Hampson) and David, a daughter, Lucinda Joan, a sister for

TYSON - On 20th March, 1999, in Grand Cayman, to Anna (noe Elverson) and Andrew, a son, Hugo Edmund George, a brothe UCHIYAMA - On March 19th

at The Portland Hospital, to Yukuri (née Tanabe) and Ryesuke, a daughter, Kie, a sister for Satoshi.

by private cremation

DEATHS

DEATHS

BENSON - Judith Mildred died peacofully at home at Nurstead on 20th March 1999, beloved wife of John. Private cremation. Memorial Service on Monday 29th March 1899 at St Mildred's Church, Nurstead Church Line. Meopham, Gravesend, Kent at 3 pm.

BOYLE - Charles Legific died peacefully in the Royal Free Hospital on March 21st 1999, aged 100. Much loved husband of Valerio, father of Margaret, Jane, Bridget, Susannah and erauffather, expet. Susannan and grant-grandfather and great-grandfather. No funeral, he has left his body to medical research. Service of Thanksgiving to be announced. Denations in his memory to RSPB or LEPRA. Benovolent Fund co Benovolent Fund co Seaford and Newhaven Funeral Service, 22 Sutton Road, Seaford, BN25 1RU, tel: (01323) 893889.

CAINE - On 20th March 1999.
Sir Michael, beloved husband of Emma, much loved Lather, grandfather and foster father. Funeral service on Monday, March 29th, at 12 noon at St. Margare's Church. Westminster Abbey, burish at 230 pm, St James-The-Less Church. Winterbourne (exit 13 on M1. Flowers and enquiries to Camp Hopson, 90 West Street, Newbury, Berks, RG14 IHA, tel 01635 522210. If would be helpful if people intending to be present at St Margaret's telephoned the Rector's socretary on 0121 273 515

CLEMO - Fredurick James
Duncan, aged 76, on 23nd
March in Mandia,
Philippines, only son of
Botty and Fred Clemo;
romembered by his wife,
Janet, daughters
Stephanie, Fiona and
Kendra, son-in-law Salite
grandchildren
Christopher, Jessice and
Daniela, with love and
oride.

COPLESTONE - John
Ashburst after a long
illness borne with great
courage died in Seaford o
Saturday March 20th
Elizabeth's beloved
husband, much loved
father, grandfather and
great-grandfather. iather, grandiather and great-grandiather. Funeral Service on Monday March 29th at 11.30 am at St Leonard's Church, Sealord, followe service. No flowers. Donations if desired to LF A.W. or the Musicia

the Rector's secretary on 0171 222 5152

ELBRIDGE - Richard Henry peacefully on 20th March aged 77. Much loved husband, father, grandfather and friend. Donations if desired to either the Church Missionary Society of Save the Children Fund. Thanksgiving Service at St Peter's, Belper on 10th April at 2.30 pm.

GRIMORE - David (Lord Gillmore of Thamesfield), beloved husband of Lucile and father of Julian and Paul, died pescefully at home on Saturday 20th March aged 64. The funeral service for family and friends will be held at 1.30 pm on Monday 29th March at All Saints Church, Fulham, Church Gate, London SWE. A Memorial Service will take place at a later date. If desired, either funeral flowers or donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o E. Larner & Son, 246 Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 6TG. (Parking at the church is very restricted).

Very Feed Tetod).

GREEN - Ronald William

Green 68. Retired political
agent for St Marylebone
constituency. Died 19th

March. All flowers and
enquiries to David Pepper
Funeral Directors, 64 High
Street, Hoddedon, Herts.

Natl 19th Tab. 101002 EN118ET Tel: 01992 447171

HOGG - On 19th March 1999.
Peacefully at her home in
Felixstown. Monica Mary,
two days after celebrating
her sixty fifth wedding
anniversary with her
beloved husband Anthony.
Much lowed mother of
Daniel, Christopher,
Penny and Froma and
treasured grandmother remy and From and treasured grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral private at families request. Enquiries to Cordon Rodwell, Funeral Service, 79 St Andrews Road, Felizatowe, Tel: 01394 671999.

HODGSON - Elizabeth Ann, on 21st March 1999 in Yeovil District Hospital, pescefully after an illness borne with grast courage. Beloved sister of Joan, dearly loved aunt of Rosamund and Katie and much loved Buffle' to their seven children. She will be greatly missed by her family and many friends. Private family funeral, A Thanksgiving Service for Elizabeth's life will be held at 2.30pm on Wadnesday 14th April at Salisbury Methodist Church to which all her friends are warmly welcome. No flowers please, but if desired, donations to Macmillan Cancer Care Yeovil District Hospital. Enquiries to Shespold Funeral Directors, 159 Fisherton Street, Salisbury (01722 328966).

KELLY - On March 21st peacefully in hospital Mamie (Ethel) agod 90 years of Beckenham. Beloved widow of Brendan Kelly, dear mother of Paula, Helen and Rowena and much loved grandmother. Service at Beckenham Crematorium on Monday March 29th at 12.30 ptn. Family flowers only please but donations for British Heart Foundation may be sent to J.B. Shakespeare Ltd., 57 George Street, Croydon CRO 1LD.

Cassandra and Vaner Enquiries to Stonem Funeral Service tel: (01737) 763456.

To place death notices acknowledgements or notices please call LAWS - John William Laws, CBE, FRCP, FRCR, on March 20th 1999 after a long illness, Much loved husband of Diana

CENT - Robert James on 23rd March 1999, widower of Anthea and father of

0171 680 6880

OSBORNE - Tonny went peacefully in her sleep Saturday March 20th 1999. She will be fondly

husband of Diana
Brinklay, witower of
Pamela (née King),
younger brother of Alan,
inther of James and Susari
and grandfather of Simon
and Jeremy Stevena.
Funeral at West Norwood
Crematurium at 12.30pm,
on Monday March 29th.
Ali welcome, Family
flowers only. Donations
would be appreciated to Si
Christopher's Hospice, 51
Lawrie Park Road, SE28.

Lawrie Park Road, SE28.
LOCKHART - Assa (née
Scheel) of Rogate, West
Sussex, suddenly and
peacafully in hospital after
a short libres on Sunday.
List March, Family
flowers only. Donations to
Macmillan Cancer Relief.
A service will take place at
St Bartholomew's Church,
Rogate at 2.30pm on
Tuesday, 30th March.

NASON - Katherine Mary (Mollie), wife of the late Lieutenant Colonel R.F. (Paul) Nason and mother of Jonathan and Paddy. Died peacefully on 6th March 1999. A service of Thanksgiving will be held at 5t Pater's, Lutton Place, Edinburgh on Saturday 27th March 1999 at 2.30pm Donations if desired to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Army Benevolent Fund.

NELL - Henry James (Lt.

Cdr. R.N., Reftd). On 22nd

Merch 1999 aged 68 years.

Died pescefully at home,
after a 5 month battle
against canoer. Most
beloved husband of

Maggle and Isther of P. N

and P and grandfather of

6. We shall miss him so
much. Funeral service to
be held on Friday 36th

March 1999 at 10.30 am in

St Peter's and St Paul's.

Lynsted, nr. St Feters and St Fan's, Lynasted, ur. Sittingbourne, Kent. Enquirles to Bournes of Sittingbourne, 8, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME 10 4RT. 01795

OLIVIER - Viola, widow of Captain Decres Olivier, Royal Navy, Peacefully at home on March 20th 1999 aged 100. Funeral private. No flowers.

PARRECK - Denise. On 21st March, aged 42, of cancer. Beloved wile of David and devoted mother of Sam, Joel and Shula, Funeral

PHELIPS - Helen on 21st
Morch peacefully after a
short illness aged 81 years
Widow of Gregory, much
loved mother of Carole,
lohn and Binnie, devoted
grandmother. Private
cremation. Thankagiving
Service at Bibury Church
on Friday Zird April at 12
noon. No flowers please.

REDFERN - Frances Anne, 88, died pescelully in her DGAA strains home amidst family, friends, and the caring staff. Mother to Paul, David and John; grandmother to the late Max, and Simon, Bridget, Jamine, Emma and Mark; great-grandmother to Eleanor, mother-in-law to Pamela, Funeral at the West London Crematorium in the Harrow Road at Kensal Green, Monday 29th March at 2pm and afterwards in Paradise, 19 Kilburn Lane.

ROBJOHN - Ursula Ethel (née Page), dearly loved wife of Lealis H Robjohn and beloved step-mother to Michael, Jane, Neil, Ian and their families, died suddenly on 22nd March 1999 in her 82rd year. Funeral sorvice at Barnsck Parish Church, Stamford, Lincolnahiro on Wedneadsy 31st March at 15.00 hours. No flowers please.

SHAW-David. On March 22nd, suddenly, Dearly loved and loving husband of Jean. Devoted father of Joanne and Jonathan, grandfather of Eleanor and Susannah. Puneral at Golders Green Crematorium at 10.30sm, Wednesday 24th March.

SNGLETON - Alexander (Sandy) peecefully on Mouday 22nd March 1999 aged 84. Wagga, Australia

SLESSOR - On 21st March 1999 - peacefully, Lady Marcella Slessor, dearly loved Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Private Cremation. Memorial service at 5t Peter's Church, Stockhridge on Priday 9th April at 3.00pm Denations in lieu of flowers please to The British Heart Foundation, c/o Jao Steel and Sons, Chesil House, Winchester.

SOUPER - Dr. Dorothy
Kliner. Peacefully at her
home in Wirksworth.
Derbyshire, aged 92,
formerly of Norwich.
Funeral at Carsington
Church at 2.45 pm on
Friday 26th March.
Donations for Derbyshire
Dales Crossroads Care
Schema. Further enquiries
to R & K Jepson 01629
822113.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

SPEEDMAN - Roy Anderson - st home on March 17th, 1999 after a rensylable and courageous journey, Roy passed away in his 55th year. He is deeply mourned by his loving and devoted family, wife Mary, daughter Tracey, son Scott, son-in-law Andy Wood and father Robert Speedman of Motherwell, Scotland, Roys humour and zest for life will be sorely missed by his family, many friends and colleagues sround the world, Visitation was held on Tuesday March 23rd at the R.S. Kane Funeral Home (6150 Yongs Street, Toronto, Canada). Funeral Service will be held Wednesday March 24th at 11.30 am at St John's Anglican Church, York Mills (19 Don Ridge Drive, Toronto, Canada). Cremation Momnt Plessant. The family wishes to acknowledge the

Cremation Mount
Pleasant. The family
wishes to acknowledge the
kindnesses of their many
triends, the doctors and
nurses of the Princess
Margaret Hospital and the
Mount Sinsi Palliative
Care Team. In lieu of
flowers remembrances flowers remembrances may be made to the Terry Fox Poundation Fox Foundation (Provincial Office, 60 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite 205, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1N5).

INS).

YAISOT - Ceolfrey, M.A.
Cantab. Passed away on
20th March 1999, agod 71,
with quiet dignity at the
Royal United Hospital,
Bath. Proud to be an Old
Dartfordian. Teacher of
Geography for almost 40
years, despits his
disability. Much loved
brother of Mary, Jim and
Brenda and their families.
Crumstion at Haycombe,
Bath on Tuseday, 30th
March 1899 at 2.30pm.
Further enquiries to B.H.
Mears Funeral Director
01761 412 160. Family
flowers only. Donations if
so desired, will be
forwarded to the British
Poliomyelitis Fellowship.

TAYLOR - Ruth Margaret (née Howitt) MB, BCh. DRCOG, MRCGP. Peacefully on Merch 19th at Lordington Park Nursing Home aged 84. Dearly loved wife of Selwyn and mother of Selwyn and mother of Simon and Jane, grandmother of Lara. Funeral 1.45 pm Tuesday March 30th, Holy Trinity, Bosham.

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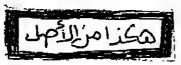
• •

M. (Pete) CB. CVO. OBE. died peacefully March 21st aged 93. Beloved husband of Barbara, father of Rosalind. Wendy and William; grandfather and great-grandfather. Family burial to flowers. winism; grandiather and great-grandiather. Family burial, no flowers, donations to Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, Details of Service of Thanksgiving to be announced. to be announced.

TOMKINS - Anthony Robert
(Tony), dearly loved
brother of Pam and dear
friend of Charlyne. Retired
Headmaster, recently of
East Sussex aged 70 years.
Funeral Service at
Eastbourne Crematorian Filteral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium on Monday March 29th at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to St Wilfrid's Hospice of Serenty Funeral Directors, 43 South Street, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4UT, tel: 00.1233 736446.

(01323) 736446.

WALKER - On Thesday
March 16th 1999 at St
Peter's Hospital, Cherlsey,
Surrey, Gerald (Gerry)
aged 80. Belowed of his late
wite Thus, father of Ian
and loved by his wide
family, London Scottish
Sandhurst Lt. Royal
Armoured Corps D-Day
plus ten North West
Europe Campaign. A great
Iriend of the 59th
Saffordshire Division.
Later a Manager with Emu
Wool Industries, Funeral
Service at St Mark's
Church, Whiteley Village,
Walton, on-Themes at
12.15 pm Friday March
26th 12.15 pm Friday March 26th, fellowed by cremation at Randalls Park, Leatherbead.



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OBITUARIES

Lord Beloff, FBA, Gladstone Professor of Government and Public Administration, Oxford University, 1957-74, and founding Principal of the University College at Buckingham, died on March 22 aged 85. He was born on July 2, 1913.

n so far as Britain has an equivalent of a continental-style intelligentsia, Max Beloff was one of its leading lights. The son of cultured Russian Jewish immigrants, he was a scholar, journalist, historian, polemicist and politician, but above all he was a controversialist who never felt more comfortable than when engaged in argument. His themes were never petty. The rise and fall of empires and great powers, modern attitudes to education, the future of the nation states these three petty. these were some of the subjects that engaged his sparkling, highly confronta-tional brain.

One of his best books was emitted The

campaign

for elected

chamber

The second secon

4.7

Intellectual in Politics, and unlike many inholars. Beloff believed that a good intellect carried with it the responsibility to engage in the political process. Along with many other prominent men of the late 1970s. Hugh Thomas, Paul Johnson, Alun Chalfont, Reginald Prentice, Woodrow Wyatt, Kingsley Amis and Bernard Levin among them — Beloff made the transition from Left to Right, largely prompted by the sight of over-mighty trade unionism. It was the exodus of men such as him that gave Thatcherism an overall intellectual depth that its economic policies alone would not. have merited.

Beloff became one of the leading lights of what was then called the New Right, and used think-tanks such as the Centre for Policy Studies, the Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism and the Institute of Economic Affairs to try to keep the Conservative Governments of the 80s up to the ideological mark. His anti-collectivist views on education were put into bricks and mortarboards when he became the founder and Principal of the private University College at Bucking-ham (now the University of Buckingham), which allowed him to test principles he had been propagating since the 1960s. Lord Beloff ended his days as the foremost intellectual figure of the Eurosceptic movement, where he used his considerable knowledge of constitutional matters - he had written the textbook on The Government of the United Kingdom. in 1980 - to attack the Major and Blair Governments over moves towards closer European integration. However that particular argument progresses, few thinkers have had so profound an influence on the life of the country in the postwar period.

Beloff's central argument was that history, rather than what he called "the pretensions of political scientists", gave assuming the Gladstone Chair of Govern-the best clue both to national character ment and Public Administration at and to the future political direction of Oxford in 1957, he proposed for himself a pretensions of political scientists", gave

peoples. The past, he said, can give suggestions and intimations that set the imagination working" and he made it his life's work to set as many imaginations working as possible.

Max Beloff was the oldest child of a gifted Jewish family. Like so many Russian Jews, his father, Simon Beloff, came to England in the aftermath of the 1917 Revolution and established himself in business: amassing a respectable fortune. Max inherited a full measure of

fortune. Max inherited a tuil measure or parental drive and energy.

He attended St Paul's School, for which he retained a special affection. His election to a history scholarship at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, was followed by the Gibbs scholarship in 1924 and a First in the Modern History School. In 1935 he was elected to a senior demyship at Maedalen and in 1937 to a junior research Magdalen and in 1937 to a junior research féllowship at Corpus

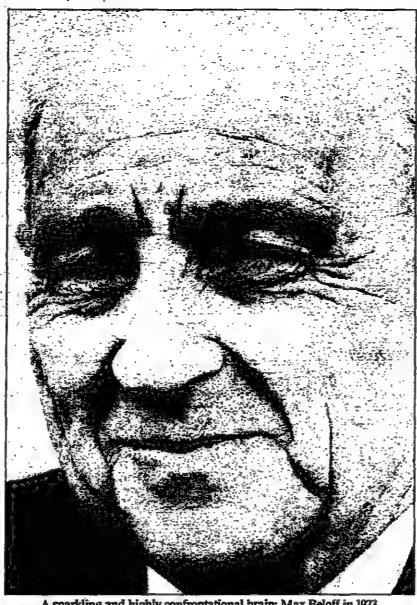
The fruit of these early years at Oxford was Public Order and Popular Distur-bances 1660-1717 (1938), in which he looked at the incidence of economic and religious agitation between the reigns of Charles II and Anne. Based upon a BLitt thesis, it was a thoroughly scholarly affair, and was followed by his appointment as assistant history lecturer at Manchester University, where he stayed until 1940 when he was called up. Ill-health, however, cut short his service in the Royal Corps of Signals. He returned to Manchester until Oxford called him back in 1946 as the Nuffield Reader in Comparative Institutions.

Thus began a long association with the their infant Nuffield College, where Beloff became a Fellow in 1947. His academic interests had by this time moved from the 17th century to later periods and to foreign fields. For Chatham House he undertook two solid and careful studies of Soviet-foreign policy, a field for which his background and linguistic attainments particularly fitted him. These studies were published in two volumes as The Foreign Policy of Soviet Russia (1947 and 1949) and were followed by Soviet Policy in the Far East (1953).

He developed a parallel interest in the United States and American history, producing in 1948 the first serious study of Thomas Jefferson to appear in England: Thomas Jefferson and American Democrany. An edition that year of The Federalist (the 18th-century papers writ-ten to bring about ratification of the American Constitution) carried a long. expository introduction by Beloff. A later volume in the Home University Library. American Federal Government (1959), was a sound incisive outline of the American political system.

For all his interest in the United States, the focus of Beloff's concern and attachments remained in the older world, not least its place in the new order. On

LORD BELOFF



A sparkling and highly confrontational brain: Max Beloff in 1973

programme of study involving the impact upon British and imperial institutions of Britain's postwar association with Europe and the Atlantic alliance.

This was a natural development of his growing interest in problems of foreign policy, reflected in his Albert Shaw Lectures, delivered at Johns Hopkins University in 1954 and published as Foreign Policy and the Democratic Process (1955). A brief volume on Europe and the Europeans (1957) was a by-product of work done by Beloff as rapporteur général to a Council of Europe study group on the foundations of European unity in 1956.

His ideas on this subject were devel-

Britain's relationship with the European Economic Community, he noted that there was "strong scepticism in Britain as to the possibility of tighter forms of integration". This was followed by a more lively and arresting work, The United States and the Unity of Europe (1963), in which he argued that America was seeking to prevent a united Europe,

fearing its economic and political might. In 1969 there appeared the first volume of Imperial Sunset, which covered the years 1897 to 1921 and traced the process by which Britain began the liquidation of her imperial role. Although the progress of the work's concluding volumes was interrupted by other scholarly and public oped in New Dimensions in Foreign interests. Beloff found time to compose Policy (1961) in which, with regard to two other lengthy studies, writing The

Government of the United Kingdom (1980, with G.R. Peele) and Wars and Welfare (1984) which was a full-scale history of 20th-century Britain.

This large output was the product of a lifetime of unremitting scholarly labour. Oxford has known few more assiduous or professional scholars in the modern field than Beloff. With excellent linguistic equipment, speed in assimilation and fluency in exposition, he was also extremely competent in the organisation of his material. Except when his polemical interests were aroused, it could be argued that his work lacked something of flavour; the writing, though always lucid, was not always elegant or enticing. Its virtues were those of accuracy, comprehensiveness and good sense.

Beloff's initial professional assiduity and rigour did not make him indifferent to issues of party politics. Indeed, from his early days as a member of the Oxford Union he was a keen controversialist. He was Editor of the Oxford Magazine for a year in the 1950s, and there were few educational debates in Oxford or the country at large which failed to draw his fire. When the Oxford Union put up the motion "This house would not fight for King and Country" in 1933, he was teller for the ayes, though when the debate was replayed fifty years later, Beloff ad repented his youthful pacifism and adopted the contrary starice.

In party politics, he was an active member of the Liberal Party and served for many years as president of the South Oxfordshire Liberal Association. He resigned in 1972 over education policy, complaining that the younger elements within the party were preaching "anar-chism and socialism", and started his move towards the Conservatives. Education was always central to his interests. because, in his view, it was central to society. His inaugural lecture as Gladstone Professor, delivered on February 20, 1958, had as its subject The Tasks of Government; much of it, however, was given over to a detailed criticism of the Oxford Honour School of Modern Greats or PPE, which combined politics, philosophy, and economics.

That concern with the practicalities of education was to bear remarkable fruit some two decades later. Prompted by a belief that educational standards were falling and that the autonomy of the universities was being eroded. Beloff became associated with the attempt to establish a private university in the United Kingdom. When sufficient money was raised to enable the experiment to proceed, Beloff decided to retire early from Oxford and to devote his time to the new University College at Buckingham. As Principal from 1974 to 1979 he threw himself tirelessly into its affairs and was rewarded when in 1983 the college was awarded a Royal Charter, thus becoming a full university able to award degrees. It is doubtful whether anyone else would so is survived by his wife and two sons.

readily have made the personal sacrifice involved in leaving academic life in Oxford, and it is unlikely that the experiment would have succeeded with-

When Beloff retired from Buckingham in 1979 he had expected to resume full-time academic study. But he was knighted in 1980 and created a life peer the following year, which caused him to take on a new set of public obligations. For the Conservative Party he undertook a substantial amount of public speaking and was, prior to the 1983 general election. active in the party's research and policy process. The House of Lords fascinated him and he contributed frequently to its deliberations, not least in the recent question of the abolition of hereditary peers, of which he was a stern opponent

e remained a prolific writer, as at home with the rough and tumble of daily journalism as with the He was an incisive political columnist, not least in The Times, and in the years of what should have been his retirement he enjoyed a journalistic Indian summer as a polemical defender of traditional British liberties. In 1990 he lambasted the Conservative Government for its decision to introduce student loans, a move he believed to be as philistine as it was unmeritocratic. Though he had once been in favour of the Common Market, he became an outspoken detractor of the federalist project of European Union, a theme which he expanded on in his book of 1996, Britain and the European Union: Dialogue of the Deaf. And only last month, he stoked considerable controversy with an article in The Times in which he compared Tony Blair's rise to power to that of Hitler.

A rather aloof man, he was never able to participate easily in conversations without serious intellectual content, and could strike those who came in contact with him as impatient and forbidding. He was, however, enormously generous with his time to students and fellow scholars. He was an honorary LLD of Pittsburgh: an honorary DCL of Bishop's University in Canada; an honorary DLitt of Bowdoin College, United States, and held an Honorary Doctorate from Aix-Marseilles. He was awarded a DLitt by Oxford and in 1973 was elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

In his intellectual autobiography An Historian in the Twentieth Century (1992) Max Beloff mourned this century and its flight from reason, scorning the ascendancy of political correctness and lamenting the premature dismemberment of the British Empire. It encapsulated much of his later thought. His many admirers regretted only that there was not more of the man in the book.

He married Helen Dobrin in 1938 and

LORD ST OSWALD

Lord St Oswald, 5th Baron, died on March 18 aged 79. He was born on July 19, 1919.

INHERITING his title and the contents of Nostell Priory, near Wakefield, on his brother's death in 1984, Derek Winn found himself faced with the problems which are so often germane to the stewardship of a stately home. Nostell Priory; commissioned by an ancestor Sir Rowland Winn, 4th Baronet, in 1733 and created over a period of fifty years to 1785 by the architects James Paine and Robert Adam, had passed to the National Trust in 1953.

DEATHS

WEST - On 19th March 1999 Nevilla Frederick of Ringmer, late of Sussex University, Director of Q.M.S. Enquiries and donations if desired, to Martiets Hospice c/o Cooper & Son Funeral Service, 42 High Street, Leaves, East Sussex 01273

MEMORIAL SERVICES

PRIVATE "

though the family continued to live there. Its contents, which include a remarkable collection of Chippendale furniture. remained in the ownership of the family.

The 4th Lord St Oswald's death faced his successor with tax habilities of around £4 million. The spectre of the breaking up of the finest documented collection of Chippendale furniture in the world loomed large. If broken up and offered in salerooms, the Chippendale contents of Nostell Priory would have fetched somewhere between £20 million. and £40 million, a tempting sum. "I kept thinking of all the

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dresses it would buy," said Lady St Oswald at the time. But my husband was determined to keep the collection together."

In the event a solution was found whereby the collection remained intact - and remained at Nostell Priory and enough money was raised to cover the family's outstanding liabilities and found a new charitable trust to be devoted to the maintenance of the priory and its 2,700 acres of parkland. The National Heritage Memorial Fund purchased the Chippendale collection and some paintings for £6.1 million, leaving £2 million to prime the charitable trust. The money came from a special grant of £25 million made at that time to the National Heritage Fund by the Department of the Environment to secure the future of Nostell Priory and two other threatened country houses: Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, and Weston Park, Staffordshire.

This was not the last time there was a threat to one of Nostell's valuable collections. In 1994 Lord St Oswald was faced with an admittedly much lesser bill of £79,093 inheritance tax on the estate of his late brother. On that

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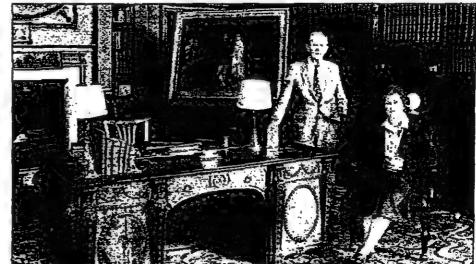
occasion a collection of 18th century architectural drawings, the originals made by Paine and Adam for their creation of Nostell Priory, was accepted in lieu of payment by the Inland Revenue. The drawings remained at Nostell Prio-

Derek Edward Anthony

Winn was the second son of the 3rd Lord St Oswald. He was educated at Stowe School from where he was commissioned into the King's Royal Rifle Corps (60th Rifles) in 1938. In 1942 he transferred to The Parachute Regiment and served in the Middle East and North Africa, where he was wounded. He spent the remainder of the war as ADC to the Governor-General of New Zealand. After the war he served for the three years 1948 to 1951 in the Malayan Police. In the 1950s he went into

film production, among other things acquiring the television rights to the Maigret books. Sold on these subsequently made it to the small screen as a popular BBC television se-ries. After quitting production Winn farmed for some years in Sussex before returning via a sojourn in London to Yorkshire, where he became more and more involved with his brother in administering the St Oswald lands.

On his brother's death he and his wife. Denise, whom he had married in 1954, threw themselves into the restoration of Nostell Priory, which had become somewhat dilapidated under the 4th Lord St Oswald.



Lord and Lady St Oswald amid the Chippendale furnishings of Nostell Priory, 1986

A large and meticulously crafted doll's house at Nostell. thought to be the work of the young Thomas Chippendale, gave her some indication of how the house would originally have looked, and she copied some of its wallpaper designs.

To raise money Lady St Oswald also held the country's first "stately home car boot sale" at Nostell Priory. On May 23, 1993, traffic jams stretched for 15 miles in all directions as the owners of sixty country houses congregated at Nostell Priory and set up stall to dispose of everything from home-made jam to silverware, fox furs and paintings. Unusually for this type of event, the car boots from which the aristocratic bric-abrac was dispensed ranged from Rolls-Royces to Land Rovers and the odd horsebox. The event raised £11,000 for the National Trust and £5,000 for asthma research.

A vivacious woman and energetic helpmeet, Lady St Oswald was knowledgeable about Nostell Priory's Chippendale heritage: "We've got lancy, we've got plain, we've got early, we've got late. We must be the only house in England with a Chippendale chopping block," she once enthused to an interviewer, at the same time producing the ten shilling receipt for the purchase.

Lord St Oswald was presi-

dent of the Wakefield Parachute Regiment Association from 1985. With other former paratroop officers he founded the committee to free Private Lee Clegg, jailed in 1993 for the murder in 1990 of an Ulster teenager at an army check-

point The committee launched its campaign at Nostell Priory in January 1995. Clegg was cleared of murder on appeal earlier this month.

Lord St Oswald was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire in 1987. He is survived by his wife, Denise, and by a son and a daughter. His son, the Hon Charles Rowland Andrew Winn, succeeds him.

SOVLE - Michael. A Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered for Michael Boyle on Saturdsy April 17th at 11 am at Our Lady of Lourdes, Waydown Road, Haslemere, Surrey. FIRST CLASS IN MEMORIAM -ENGLAND

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A WITCHCRAFT TRIAL

This is the 24th of March, 1857. Men can go to New York in 10 days, and communicate with Constantinople in 20 minutes. In the opinion of everybody but the Chinese and the Pope, we pass for a very civilised and enlightenend people, rather 100 "go-ahead" perhaps in our notions, but decidedly exempt from any incubus of superstition or credulity. We are all for education, too. Schools of every description and denomination are sprinkled over the country. and the cry is still for more, until the national instruction question has become one of the topics of the day, like the Income tax and the affair at Canton.

Yet on this very day, of this very year turns up a real trial for Witchcraft! -not, indeed, an actual arraignment for the practice of the black art, but a case showing as plainly as need be that all our teaching has not been able to eradicate the delusions of two centuries back. At Stafford last week a man was put upon his trial, not for

ON THIS DAY

March 24, 1857

Among other goings on at the farm in question it was claimed that the cows lamented, the horses pranced, and the dogs howled.

bewitching another, but for undertaking to remove an existing spell in consideration of money payment, and the state of things implied by such a case was further illustrated by the attendance in court, as our report assures us. of a "considerable number of witches," who were anxious, no doubt, about a cause so directly affecting the interests of their profession.

Thomas Charlesworth, now in the 29th year of his age, owns and occupies a farm of 40 acres in the county of Stafford, and pursues the

ordinary business of his calling in those parts. In April last year he found that something ailed the milk, that things went wrong in the dairy, that the cheese wouldn't "come", and that the dairymaid was ill. For these facts he seemed to have been at a loss to account, until a man upon his farm suggested that there was Witchcraft at work, and that a certain James Tunnicliff was the man to stop it.

So to James Tunnicliff he repaired. who at once accepted the office, and proceeded to the farm, where, after a few preliminary essays, he presently established himself. The end of it was. that there he remained in the capacity of exorcist till February last, when he was dismissed, but not before he had received for his services some 20/- or 30/- from the said Thomas Charlesworth, who, now in his better senses, became prosecutor on account thereof.

We have only to add that sentence of 12 months' hard labour followed upon the conviction of the prisoner, and we shall have said all that is necessary respecting the trial.

Nato sends in the bombers

Nato was preparing last night for missile strikes on Yugoslavia as part of what could be the largest military operation in the 50-year history of the alliance.

After the failure of the last-minute talks in Belgrade between President Milosevic and Richard Holbrooke, the American envoy, warships and aircraft were given a countdown for the Pages 1, 4-6 first phase of the airstrikes.....

New ruling set to favour Pinochet

General Pinochet's bid for freedom will receive a boost today when the highest court in the land rules that he cannot be made to stand trial for crimes of murder and torture allegedly committed before 1988. At the same time the seven law lords are expected to rule by five to two that he has no immunity from prose-...Page l cution for crimes after that date...

Cancer test error

diagnosed...

Trading....

A hospital trust has admitted re-

sponsibility for a laboratory test

mistake that led to a young moth-

er having a healthy breast re-

moved after cancer was wrongly

Street plot attacked

A price-fixing deal between two

shops that featured in the plot of

Coronation Street has been con-

demned by the Office of Fair

.....Page 10

IRA men to be freed Jack Straw's attempt to block the release of four IRA terrorists back-

fired last night. A judge rejected his efforts to stop the release of Page I **Budget investigation** The Treasury select committee is

to investigate claims that Gordon Brown misled voters about the impact of the Budget by ignoring the abolition of mortgage interest tax relief in his figures......Page 2

Family of fraudsters

Nine members of the same family faked car crashes and serious disability as part of an elaborate plot to claim 13 million from insurance companies and benefit agen-..Page 3

Irvine's 'male world'

The Lord Chancellor chooses to be surrounded by white men, a hearing into race and sex discrimination allegations against him was told. Lord Irvine of Lairg appointed white men to work for him and his circle of contacts was "overwhelmingly male".... Page 7

Immigration chaos A £77m computer project to speed

up immigration and asylum decisions is at least 14 months behind . Page 8 schedule...

Bus lane fines rise

Motorists will be fined up to El.000 for blocking bus lanes as part of a clampdown to improve

A couple will tie the laces of their trainers before they tie the knot when they get married during the Flora London Marathon next month. Mick Gambrill and Barbara Cole from Croydon, South London, who have competed in 100 marathons between them, will say their vows at the two-mile marker, then finish the rest of the 26.2 mile race as man and wife..... Page 7



A thousand schoolchildren last night performed the premiere of If, written and conducted by Howard Blake, at London's Royal Albert Hall

Rates hope: Inflation fell to its lowest level in more than four years in February, leaving the City confi-

with trains is taking a large pay out

to answer the Transport Secretary,

John Prescott's call to become the

new rail regulator Page 25

Markets: The FISE 100 index fell

92.3 to 6060.5. The pound rose .33

cents to \$1.6312 and .19p to 66.80

against the euro. The sterling index

rose to 103.2 from 103....... Page 28

.....Page 11 dent that the Bank of England will Fench judge shamed cut interest rates Page 25 A political earthquake hit France P&O plan: P&O proposes a major when Roland Dumas, the counshake-up of its diverse business intry's highest judge and fifth most terests, including the flotation of its important dignatory, was forced Bovis Homes subsidiary and the out of office by a scandal involvdisposal of Earls Court.....Page 25 ing sex and money Page 14 Trainspotting: A high-flying City lawyer who is said to be in love

Oscars bribery claim Shakespeare in Love, the winner of the Oscar for the year's best film, has been hit by griping from rivals who claim fairness was "thrown out the window" by a E9.2 million promotional blitz for ... Page 15

Police fly in to Borneo With about 200 dead, Hercules transports of the Indonesian Air Force have disgorged 1,000 police officers to try to stamp out ethnic violence in Borneo..........Page 16

Book offer extended

The Times Free Books for Schools offer is being extended after huge demand from schools registered

.....Page 9 with the scheme

Couple run away to get married

Footbalk Kevin Keegan smiled his way through England's injury list for the march against Poland and said that he felt as excited as "a kid in a toy shop"... ...Page 48 Cricket: It was confirmed that Dayid Lloyd is to step down as England

coach after the World Cup although his contract was not due to expire until the end of the summer... ..Page 48 Boxing: Herbie Hide, the WBO heavyweight champion, gave his friends a scare when he was sent to the canvas of his Norwich gym by

his sparring partner____Page 48 Simon Barnes: "I don't know what it is that England managers get up to in their past lives, but it must be pretty bad. They can't all have been Nero, can they?" Page 46

Oscar again: Fascinating though Oscar Wilde is, Benedict Nightingale wonders if Gross Indecency. Moises Kaufman's play at the Gielgud, is anything new _____ Page 38 Rising star: Rebecca Clarke is 24 90ing on nine, which is the age of

Lucy, her character in the RSC's

The Lion. The Witch and The

Wardrobe, newly transferred to London.... _Page 38 Deacon dazzies: The Tate Gallery in Liverpool has given over an airy new space to a show of the carefully engineered sculptures of Richard __Page 39 Deacon:

After Westminster: It is a year since Westminster Abbey's organist Martin Neary was ousted in a bitter dispute. How has he coped? Richard

Morrison reports....

TOMORROW,

IN THE TIMES

James Christopher

Sir Ian McKellen

the mysteries that

Oscar-nominated Gods

and Monsters, starring

Fiona Shaw investigates

surround Pontius Pilate

with sunny spells and occasional showers. Wind W to SW, fresh. Mex 12C (54F).

I SW Scottered, Glasgow, Ceotrel High-lands: early rain then bright but showery. Wind W to SW, fresh. Mex 12C (54F).

FILMS

BOOKS

reviews

Easy money: Peps and Tessas made simple; and why, in the runup to the millennium, you must keep a paper record of all your fi-Page 17

nances

Getting a grip; Artificial hands have not really changed in the past 30 years. But a new prosthesis can grasp objects in a much more hu-_.Page 18 man manner.... Sale price: "When Bruce went to meet Somerset Maugham at the Dorchester, Maugham recognised him as a bit of live bait exactly what he was. It was very cynically done." The biography of Bruce Chatwin. _Page 19

Joanna Coles: "Now remember, with a baby you can't have passion-

Constructive action: A government task force has recommended that homeowners suffering at the hands of cowboy builders be awarded cash compensation Page 35

An Israel Defence Force withdrawal from Lebanon, along with a renewal of negotiations with Syria, is drawing ever closer. The two issues are related: a serious effort by Israel to begin its withdrawal will likely draw Syria to resume negotiations, in order to prevent Israel from unilaterally taking an initiative that will upset the current strategic situation.

The Jerusalem Post

Preview: In Deadly Rattlesnakes with Steve Irwin (ITV, Spra), the Australian travels the US. Review, Joe Joseph examines ways people deal with fame Pages 46, 47

Nato and Kosovo

This tragedy is being enacted on Eur . rope's stage. Nato must act against Serbia or betray the Kosovans and see the Balkan region once again perilously destabilised Page 21

Discords for Schröder

The danger is that a weakened German Chancellor might be willing to pay too high a price for a face-saving summit deal _____Page 21

Lord of liberty

Max Beloff's life was rooted in a determination to defend what he saw as the uniquely standy British correlation of political freedoms and robust common law Page 21

MATTHEW PARRIS

Yesterday's parliamentary fanfare for a Nato attack on Serbia struck a. ragged note. That had not been the Prime Minister's hope......Page 2

PETER RIDDELL

What happens if bombing does not work? That question, never fully answered, echoed through the hour of Commons exchanges yesterday on Page 6

SIMON JENKINS

The objective set out by Mr Blair ap pears to be to bomb the Serbs intigranting partial automony to Koo ovo. It is scarcely credible that a serious person can believe this will be done by bombs..... Page 26

DAVID HINE

What the European Commission needs is competence, a restoration of public-service values and administrative morale, rather than politically imposed leadership... Page 20. **GILES COREN**

With the success of Shakespeare in

Love, Los Angeles is apparently desperate for Bard-orientated scripts. One cineaste has a series of pitches for Hollywood ...

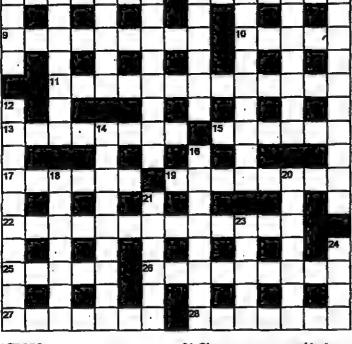
Lord Beloff, historian; Lord St Oswald, landowner Page 23

Appointment of EU Commissioners; witch bottles; water table; Pinochet verdict; "looted" art; Russian

MODERATE

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 2L059

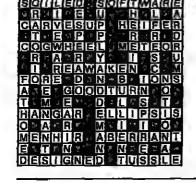


ACROSS

- 1 Cloth showing a couple of male creatures (7).
- 5 Good relations offering chat and 9 Flowering plant makes one tortured soul pleased at first (9).
- 10 Branch of bank used by craftsman (5).

 11 Officer's threewheeler coming to
- complete stop (7,6). 13 Performance in town again? Start heading for home (4,4).
- 15 Material used in roof a brick (6). 17 Drama when areas dried up (6). 19 Academic session makes one seem troubled, needing rest somehow (8). 22 Inanimate, treated with this drug
- 25 As religious type, back superior

Solution to Puzzle No 21,058



- first of December (9). 27 Opening time restricted produce a reaction (7).
- 28 Former copper starts to sue evildo-er dubiously given pardon (7).
- 1 A lot of big noises appearing heartless (4). 2 It provides new energy for horse
- (7). Give notice when ousting second in command (5).
- 4 Current help to traditional wheels of industry (4-4). Whisper coming from good man in control (6).
- Lying sort, loose in chatter (9). Actor is one in inore demanding title role (7).
- Batsman coming in first wicket down to knock up 60 (10). Pat's the ref, silly old man who's replaced another (10).
- 14 Nothing to be put in vessel on river it may be kept in this (9).

 16 Demonstration disrupting most profound polytical initiative (5). 18 Aerial insect has upset girl (7). 20 Where drivers may have to pull up in worst possible situation
- (3.4). 21 Liveliness as priest brings French art to the fore (6).

 23 One style of architecture I love -
- pleasant, not English (5). 24 Vassal's land producing lengthy quarrel (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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First quarter today London 6.19 pm to 6.53 am Bristol 6.29 pm to 6.03 am Editburgh 6.34 pm to 6.03 am Manchester 6.29 pm to 6.01 an

NEWSPAPERS





☐ General: mild with some rain in Wales and N and SW England. Sunny speas in Miclands, E Anglie and SE England. Sun and showers in Scotland and N. Ireland. London, SE, Central S & E England E Anglis, Midlands: generally dry, surny spells. Wind SW, moderate, Max 14C (57F).

Channel Islands, SW Englands in-creasingly cloudy, patchy rain from west. Wind SW, moderate. Mex 14C (57F). Wind SW, moderate. Max 14C (577).

Wales, NW England, Lake District, lake of Man: mostly cloudy with rain moving in. Wind SW, moderate. Max 14C (577).

Central N & NE England: cloudier with some rain. Wind SW, irest. Max 14C (557).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: early rain then bright

Wind W to SW, tresh. Max 12C (54F).

□ NE & NW Scottand, Argyft: sunny spets and biustery showers. Wind W to SW, strong, Max 9C (48F).

□ Orkney, Shettand: cloudy and wet. Wind S to SW, strong, Max 8C (48F).

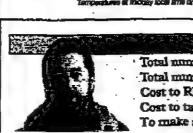
□ N Ireland: rain cleaning to sunny spells and showers. Wind W to SW, fresh. Max 11C (52F).

□ Republife of tretand: cloudy with parchy drizzle, brighter in afternoon. Wind SW, light, Max 12C (54F).

□ Outlook: cloudy with some rain.

24 his to 5 prit; b=bright; c=cloud; d=cluzde; ds=clust stamm; du=clut, (=lair; fg=log; g=gal Rain in 0.11 -50.541.561.99.54.57.55.55 Estatelernul
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Isle of Might
Jerey 0.07 0.01 0.01 0.03 0.01 0.14 001 92 41 69





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Total number of lives saved so far this year: Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: Cost to RNLI per day: Cost to taxpayer: To make a donation, telephone:



Changes to the chart below from noon: Low D will drift slowly NE

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Business

Today

OFT opens up can of beans 27

Bitter after-taste

P&O refocusing sees shares cruise higher

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

INVESTORS added up to £575 million to the value of P&O yesterday after the compa-ny unveiled an asset disposal program that is expected to raise more than £2 billion and leave the group to focus on ocean cruises. P&O said it would sell its investment prop-

erty: Bovis, the construction management company, and Earls Court Olympia, the ex-It also promised to float P&O Nedlloyd,

the cargo shipping group in which it has a

P&O and its joint venture partner, the Dutch shipping group Royal Nedlloyd, are yet to decide what stake, if any, they will re-

tain in the listed group. But P&O attributes a book value of £450 million to its share and analysts say it is highly likely that this will be sold as part of the floration. P&O is also widely expected to offload its development property over the same period.

Analysts said the sale proceeds, excluding

any money which will flow from the P&O Nedlloyd float, were expected to total about But they said the market's renewed enthustasm for the stock stemmed also from the

fact that it would be possible to compare the restructured P&O with America's more high-

higher at 860%p in a falling market. This capitalises the company at 15.53 billion. The stock, which has risen from 700p in the past formight, hit a high on the day of 905p before profit takers moved in. Investors and analysts have been demanding for at least three years that P&O shed its non-core intercould be returned to shareholders or used to ests and make itself more transparent.

The sales and flotation are expected to take up to three years to achieve and leave P&O with cruises, ferries and ports as its

The restructuring plans were announced after P&O revealed that its pre-tax profit fell 15 per cent to £369 million last year. Adjusted profit was up 14.5 per cent at £416 million before allowing for asset sales.

A final dividend of ISp was declared, making 31.5p for the year compared with 30.5p

Lord Sterling of Plaistow, chairman, said part of the sale proceeds would be invested finance a share buyback

He said the three core businesses accounted for almost two thirds of P&O's operating profit in 1998 and achieved an average return on capital of 15 per cent.

It is undertood that P&O hopes to sell Earls Court Olympia this year, most probably via a leveraged buyout, and float Boyis next year. But the float of P&O Nedlloyd depends on the company achieving an accept-

> Commentary, page 27 Tempus, page 28 Earls Court, page 30

Canary could float at 320p

BY CARL MORTISHED

BIDDING for stock in the £2 billion Canary Wharf flotation is pushing the price up to the higher end of the indicative price range of 285p to 350p. independent brokers reckon

that the price could be struck at about 320p, reflecting some caution about the true value of the tax breaks available to the Docklands property developer. A spokesman for Canary Wharf said that the bookbuild-

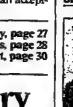
ing would close at midday today, a day earlier than indicated in the prospectus. The striking price will be announced on Thursday and trading is expected to begin on April 1.

It is believed that institutions

bid for twice the 167 million shares on offer. However, one broker said that he had encountered resistance to a high premium. "They think the tax breaks are there but don't see why they should pay for them up front." Canary Wharf's 81-acre of-fice development in London's

Docklands is underpinned by massive tax allowances made available in the early 1980s by the Conservative Government as an incentive to redevelop the derelict area. In addition the company has hundreds of millions in tax losses available following Canary Wharf's financial collapse in 1992.

investors will be considering moves by the Corporation of London to loosen planning controis and allow more skyscrap ers in the City. Canary Wharf's troubles stemmed in part from a speculative building boom un-leashed by the City in the 1980s.



Program for success

Making progress in India's Silicon Valley

STOCK MARKET INDICES FTSE 100...

SS C DOLLAR

HORTH SEA OIL

Train buff takes Silverman gets \$64m as BTR Siebe to be regulator's role | Cendant shares plunge BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

A HIGH-FLYING City law-Regulator on reorganisation, yer who is said to be in love restructuring and regulation restructuring and regulation of the industry. He has also adwith trains is taking a huge vised several rail companies, including Virgin Rail, while with Denton Hall, which he is leaving immediately. He is to pay cut to answer a call from John Prescott Deputy Prime Minister, to become the new Rail Regulator.
Tom Winsor, 41, a partner in Denton Hall, the solicitors

As regulator, his first big mask is to set Railtrack's new ac-cess charges, which are critical to the level of investment by firm, is to take on the role amid growing ministerial de-mands for rapid improvement in rail companies service quality and levels of investment Mr Winsor's £165,000 salary as Rail Regulator is far below the £400,000 that he is likely to have earned with Denton

Hall advising big companies.

Described as "railway mad"
by his friends, Mr Winsor has been involved closely with the worked in 1993 as chief legal dviser to the Office of the Rail

take up his new job in July.

Railtrack and train operators. Mr Prescott hailed the appointment as part of his spring clean of the rail industry, coming three weeks after Sir Alastair Morton became chairman of the British Rail-

ways Board Mr Winsor succeeds Chris Bolt, the stop-gap regulator in the job since December.

City Diary, page 29

HENRY SILVERMAN, chairman and chief executive of Cendant, earned \$63.9 million (£39 million) while the company's shareholders watched their stocks plunge after a \$500 million accounting fraud

The extraordinary annual pay included \$61 million in stock options that Mr Silverman exercised after the company lowered the strike price dramatically to overcome the drop in share prices.

Cendant's compensation committee, which included Brian Mulroney, the former Prime Minister of Canada, granted the repriced stock op-tions and a higher salary for the extra work the fraud had cansed Mr Silverman. Mr Silverman was one of

Wall Street's most respected entrepreneurs until last year's scandal. He built Cendant from scratch into a global services conglomerate with interests that span real estate and



Avis rental cars. In the UK it owns the NCP car park business and the Green Flag auto recovery service.

However, It failed in an al-

Peter Austen, finance director, and Richard Holland, chief executive of Boosey & Hawkes,

the instruments company, reported a fall in underlying profits to £7.1 million (£8.1 million)

tempt to acquire the RAC's mo-After a \$14 billion merger with CUC International, a trail of fraudulent revenue figures was found that shattered Cendant's share price and cost

Mr Silverman about \$750 million in paper losses. Walter Forbes, founder of CUC, was forced out of Cendant after the fraud was revealed. Mr Mulroney left the compensation committee in January after serving for just five

Commentary, page 27 the group aims to be about.

months. He remains on Cend-

... invensys

By JASON NISSE

WHERE once there was Birmingham Tyre & Rubber which operated out of Fort Dunlop, overlooking Spaghet-ti Junction — and Siebe Gor-man, maker of diving equipment, there is now invensys. This is the new name chosen

for the combined BTR Siebe, the engineering and electronics giant created by a £11 billion merger last year. The name - all in lower-

case letters — was chosen from 3,000 possibles and a shortlist of five put before the group's board and senior managers. Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, invensys chairman, said that the alternatives were much worse. He said that the name is meant to indicate a combination of invention

The e e cummings element of the new name is meant to "give us a Silicon Valley feel". Lord Marshall said.

According to Simon Jones, of Interbrand Newell & Sorrell, the brand consultants responsible for the name, invensys is "associative - it is not descriptive, but suggestive, of the company and its products". The former BTR Siebe spent

£500,000 coming up with the name, most of the money going to intellectual-property lawyers checking that names Interbrand suggested had not been used in the five product categories and dozens of countrades. Shareholders are to vote on the name change next month. Just in case they do not like it, invensys has already registered four alternatives.

Nicholson attacks **Swallow**

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SIR Paul Nicholson, the chairman of Swallow Group, launched an astonishing attack on his fellow directors yes-terday following the collapse of the sale of its Vaux Breweries arm and 350 pubs to a management buyout team.

The failure of the MBO, led by Sir Paul's brother. Frank, is expected to lead to the closure of its two breweries in Sunderland and Sheffield with the loss of about 700 jobs - an eventuality Sir Paul, whose family has been involved with Vaux since its inception, had been desperate to avoid.

In an interview with The Times, Sir Paul said: "I have told my colleagues that I can-not associate myself with this decision and if they want to take action against me that's up to them." Although he has previously indicated his intention to retire as chairman, he said he had no intention of resigning over this matter. Swallow in disarray, page 26

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ed up big losses as Wall-Street ended its recent flirtation with the 10,000 level and turned decisively lower. Underlying inflation, excentage points in February, compared with January, to leave the annual rate down from 26 per cent to 24 per

cent. It was the first time since the Bank of England gained independence that inflation has come in below target. Headline inflation also fell sharply, from 24 per cent to 2.1 per cent — its lowest level since December 1993. The rapid decline in infla-

tion caught the City and indus-try by surprise and, after weak-er than expected GDP data on

by up to half a point. Ian Peters, deputy director-general of the British Cham-

England will cut rates again

The unexpectedly benign data, however, falled to cheer

the stock market which clock-

next month.

level in more four years in February, leaving the City confident that the Bank of view that inflationary pressures on the economy remain negligible. The Monetary Poli-cy Committee should car interest rates by a half per cent when it next meets." The latest decline was wel-

INFLATION fell to its lowest inflation figures confirm our

Inflation low

spurs talk of

fresh rate cut

comed by Gordon Brown. He told the Treasury Select Committee that inflation should remain on target throughout the year. The Chancellor also insisted that recent economic figcluding moregage interest ures suggested that the Govern-payments, climbed by 0.3 perment's forecast of growth between I per cent and 1.5 per ceni was "reasonable".

He said: The economy is performing better than some people imagined some months ago. And I think you'll find that independent assessments are moving again closer to our figures for next year."

Mr Brown's comments, however, were ignored by the mar-kets with the FTSE 100 closing down 92.3 points at 6,060.5 after a shaky opening on Wall-Street and overnight losses in Asia. By lunchtime in New Monday, revived calls for the York, the Dow Jones industrial Bank of England to cut rates average stood about 174 points lower. The pound also shrugged off the data to close marginally higher against both

By Alasdair Murray, economics correspondent in inflation was led by cominued pressure on goods prices, although services inflation also eased back to 3.3 per cent. Analysts said that, although inflation will tick up because of Budget changes, the under-

lying trend is downwards especially as the February result actually included a sharp upward rise in the volatile seasonal food price element. The Bank is also likely to be reassured by the decline in the headline rate which will help.

to keep the lid on pay rises. Deanne Julius, one of the independent members of the Monetary Policy Committee, last night said that continu growth in the service sector, with its flexible employment practices, is helping to curb some inflationary pressures. Ms Julius told the Manchester Business School that "it is possible that this shift in the composition of the labour force has

starts to accelerate".

reduced the rate of unemploy-

ment below which inflation

SWALLOW GROUP, the northeast hotel and pub operator, was in disarray last night after the last-minute collapse of a management buyout of its two breweries and a package of 350 tenanted pubs.

The estimated £65 miltion deal was to have ushered a new dawn for the group, formerly known as Vaux as it sought to put behind it a lacklustre recent performance to focus on its higher growth Swallow Hotels chain and managed pubs.

The collapse of the deal centred on the terms of future drinks supply agreements between the two parties. Peter Catesby, chief executive, said that the MBO team, backed by Alchemy Partners, had insisted on a five-year distribution tie. "We couldn't tie ourselves for more than two years,"

Swallow is understood to believe that, under Alchemy's terms, the deal would have been worth £14 million less than under its own proposals. But Sir Paul Nicholson, Swallow's chairman, disagreed with the rest of his board, saying it was "not a difference to justify putting 700 people out of work".

The company is now expected to offer some 250 of the pubs to the likes of Mansfield Brewery and Pubmaster, resulting in the closure of the breweries. Ironically, this was the option favoured by Martin Grant the former chief executive, and Neal Gossage. both dismissed last month after secretly telling institutional investors of their disagreement with the board's decision to give the MBO team a four-week pe-

riod of exclusivity. Sir Paul yesterday vowed to try to persuade the board to accept the MBO team's offer. Eric Walters, a partner at Alchemy, said: "We are still interested."

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RBS makes £140m profit as investor services go to US

By CAROLINE MERRELL BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL BANK of Scotland is selling its investor services subsidiaries to Bank of New York in a deal that values the businesses at about £500 million.

The sale will give rise to a £140 million profit for Royal Bank. Under the terms of the transaction. Bank of New York will buy the whole of RBS Trust Bank, and 30 per cent of the bank's offshore equivalent. Bank of New York is to pay £29 million for the stake in the offshore company. Royal Bank of Scotland International Security Services

Mercury Asset Management will also benefit from the deal because it owns 30 per cent of the RBS Trust Bank.

A Royal Bank spokesman said that it had sold because investor services were no longer deemed central to its strategy. Bank of New York specialises in offering investor services and recently bought the custo-

dy business of Coutts and JP Morgan. It is now the world's largest custodian, with \$5.9 trillion (£3.64 trillion) of assets adminstered worldwide.

Bank of New York is paying in a mixture of cash and loan notes to be agreed between the parties. Royal Bank said that £200 million of the payment would be deferred, and be payable in three equal instalments from 2000. Further payment may be due in 2000 and 2001 under an earn-out agreement. Both parties refused to com-

agreement, but a Royal Bank spokesman said that payment would be related to the fee income generated by RBS Trust Bank Mercury, Legal & General and Woolwich all use its

Sir George Mathewson. Royal Bank's chief executive, said: "Following a strategic review, we concluded that Trust. Bank would be better posi-tioned as a subsidiary of a bank for whom the provision of administration services to

diaries is a core business."

The transaction will also strengthen Royal Bank's balance sheer, adding 0.3 per cent to its tier one capital ratio and 0.4 per cent to total capital

Bank of New York said it planned to keep Trust Bank's 1,300 staff. Trust Bank was established in 1997 when Royal Bank bought the custody and investor services division and related treasury and banking business of SG Warburg.

IPE enters

talks that

could halt

merger

BY CARL MORTISHED

THE International Petroleum

Exchange is in talks with a group of energy companies over a £25 million investment

in the exchange that could

scupper the current merger talks with its New York rival,

The IPE would not identify

the potential investors but de-

scribed them as "large and

well-respected companies in-

volved in the European energy business". The investors are likely to include power genera-tors and other electricity com-

panies, keen to see IPE develop

a futures market in electricity. The IPE confirmed that the in-

vestors were not currently members of the exchange

which excludes leading oil com-panies, such as Shell and BP.

Lynton Jones, chief executive of IPE, said that some

members wanted the organisa-

tion to remain independent

and pursue alternatives to an

outright sale to Nymex. The in-

vestment proposal would en-

tail the sale of up to 70 per cent

of IPE to several energy com-

panies with no single investor

taking more than 15 per cent.

He explained that the IPE was undercapitalised because

A board meeting is sched-uled for Wednesday next week to consider the deal and the current talks with Nymex.

of its status as a mutual.

Opec ministers sign deal in record time

OIL prices held steady at about \$13.74 per barrel of benchmark Brent crude after the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries ratified in record time an agreement to take two million barrels of oil a day off the market for the next year. Ministers meeting in Vienna yesterday took less then half an hour to sign the deal reached informally in The Hague earlier this month. The final communique issued after the meeting said: "Member countries strongly emphasised their firm commitment to this agreement ... and stressed their intention to ensure full compliance."

Opec agreed two rounds of cuts totalling some three million barrels a day last year, but they were not fully implemented and failed to boost prices from historic low levels, causing severe economic problems to oil-dependent economies. Yesterday's communique said that Opec and non-Opec oil producers had agreed to cut output by 2.1 million barrels per day for a year from April I, with cuts of slightly more than 1.7 million barrels a day coming from ten Opec members. Four nun-OPEC countries — Russia, Mexico, Oman and Norway — will cut exports by 400,000 barrels a day between them.

LVMH confirms bid

LVMH yesterday confirmed its bid for 100 per cent of Gucci, after an enabling decision by the Amsterdam Court of Appeal, LVMH said it had notified the Gucci board of its decision. sion and wished to enter "as soon as possible" into negotiations. LVMH did not reveal the value of its bid, in line with Dutch merger regulations which provide for a seven-day delay between formal notification of an offer and official announcement of the price. On Monday the Amsterdam court ordered Gucci to enter into negotiations with LVMH.

Stakeholder concerns

Cus

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STAKEHOLDER pensions, the centrepiece of the Government's aim to reform retirement savings, are in danger of missing their target a new report has found. More than two thirds of people earning between £9,000 and £18,500 do not have a stable pattern of employment and have no savings, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies. The IFS argues such people should rely on the state second pension, which the Govern-ment hopes will replace Serps, or by contributing to an individ-ual savings account (Isa), to be launched next month.

Yahoo! link for HMV

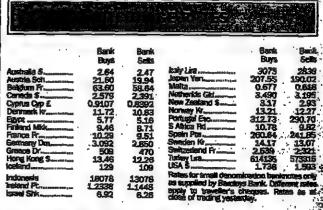
HMV, the British music retailer, has tackled the threat from Internet stores such as Amazon.com head-on by launching a free Internet service in partnership with Yahoo!, the web directory. The company will distribute free CD-Roms throughout its 107 British stores which, when installed in a personal computer, will provide free internet access, free e-mail, and a direct link to HMV's online music store. The online store will sell heavily discounted CDs, such as Blur's 13 for £9.99.

IMI in £16m disposal

IMI, the engineering group, has agreed to sell the aerospace businesses of IMI Marston, a subsidiary to Hamilton Standard, a subsidiary of America's United Technologies Corporation, for £16.6 million. The businesses are based at Fordhouses, near Wolverhampton, and employ nearly 260 people in the manufacture of heat exchangers, tubes, couplings and manifolds for the aerospace industry. In 1998 the businesses earned operating profits of £1.7 million on sales of £19 million. IMI shares fell 250 to 270p yesterday.

Phytopharm royalties

PHYTOPHARM, the company seeking to develop medi-cines from plants, has increased the level of royalties that it hopes to receive from its potential osteoarthritis drug. This is costs that were to be borne by Phytochemindo, its cash-strapped Indonesian parmer. Preliminary results from a phase II trial of P54 in about 190 osteoarthritis patients are expected to be published next month. Phytopharm is also testing P54 as an anti-cancer agent.





Goeran Lindahl, chairman of ABB Alstom Power, left, shakes hands with Pierre Bilger, centre, and Claude Darmon

ABB-Alstom power deal

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

ASEA Brown Boveri and Alstom have seized the baton of world leadership in power generation from America's General Electric by combining their respective turbine businesses into a joint venture with sales

of €9.9 billion (£6.6 billion). ABB, the Swiss/Swedish engineering group and France's Alstom yesterday agreed to create a 50/50 joint company, ABB Alstom Power. It will include the Alstom energy busi-nesses with the exception of its heavy-duty gas turbine which

is being sold to GE for \$910 million (£562 million). ABB will Inject all of its power generation units into the joint venture save the nuclear activities and service-related businesses.

The transaction will include a cash payment by Aistom to ABB of £1.4 billion to account for the larger contribution of ABB to the venture. Alstorn said that improvements in efficiency and productivity as well as economies of scale would yield about €400 million in savings within three to four years.

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The deal propels Alstorn and its partner into the top position in an industry known for cutthroat competition. Alstom shares gained 7 per cent as the market greeted the news that the company's weakness had been turned into a potential strength.

Alstom was relegated to fifth place in the power league when Siemens took over the power generation arm of Westinghouse last year for DM1.2 billion. The new company will boast almost €10 billion in

sales, well ahead of GE, even after its purchase of the Alstom heavy-duty gas turbine operation. Pierre Bilger, Al-stom's chairman, said: The joint company will be a strong R&D powerhouse." Pro-forma joint R&D spend for the ven-

ture will be 6630 million. The new company will be led by Claude Darmon, deputy chief executive of Alstom. Analysis yesterday speculated that the deal may be a prelude to a complete exit from power generation by ABB.

Croda to shut smaller plants

By PAUL DURMAN

CRODA International, the chemicals company, is plan-ning to close several of its smaller plants in an effort to save £4 million a year.

Weak demand in the UK and the strength of sterling reduced Croda's pre-tax profits last year from £41.1 million to £32 million — even before an £18 million exceptional loss on three disposals.

The sale of a paints busi-ness, an own-label soap company and an adhesives firm has increased the group's focus on oil-based chemicals used in personal care, pharmaceutical and nutrition products and industrial chemicals

used in paints, inks and packzing. Barbara Richmond, finance

director, would not say how many of Croda's 1,200 UK employees would lose their jobs. She said Croda regards about half of its 15 manufacturing plants as small. The company has already begun consolidat-ing production in the US and France.

The smaller industrial chemicals division suffered most last year, with profits falling 28 per cent to £9 million on slightlower sales of £119.2 million. A second interim dividend of 6.8p maintains the total pay-

VX 1120

VX 1140

ment at 10.35p.

Tyson helps lift Hay & Robertson

By Chiris Ayres

lagher helped profits to rise 34 per cent to £2.3 million last year at Hay & Robertson, owner of the Kangol clothing brand favoured by the boxer

and Oasis singer.
The company, which is run
by Lance Yates — an adviser to the Rolling Stones on merchandising - also owns the rights to the Admiral and England/ Three Lions clothing brands Yesterday, H&R reported a 13 per cent rise in full-year sales to £20.6 million, and a 39 per cent rise in earnings per share to 7.8p. A final dividend of 0.5p, up 66 per cent, will be paid on May 21.

During the year H&R gained product endorsements big-name footballers such as David Ginola and David Seaman. However, Mr Yates said that the company was eager to distance itself from the troubled replica football shirts market, and instead emphasise its focus on branded leisurewear. Shares in H&R fell 4p to 101.5p yesterday.

MIKE TYSON and Liam Gal-

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gation is depressing enough for the grocers but what they really fear is that the result might be an attempt to weight the odds unfair-ly against the current winners.

ish consumers are being forced to pay too much for their groceries, what are we going to do about it?" A Monopolies Commission in-quiry provides a convenient

of Fair Trading is to subject their activities to the full scrutiny of a

Their suspicion is that, somewhere in Government, an idea is where in Government, an loca is already being formulated to try to alter the planning process so that there would be positive dis-crimination against those stores that currently dominate the mar-ket. It would be a hugely contro-versal move but it would answer the guestion that is now begin. the question that is now begin-ning to touble some people at the Treasury: "Having said that Brit-

breathing space. The OFT's John Bridgeman is, of course, his own man but his decision to take a closer look at the grocers coincided with the consumers' friend, Gordon Brown, voicing his con-cerns over shop prices. Whatever the results of the OFT's protracted investigations, a clean bill of health for the industry was not likely to have gone down well at when judging planning applica-

Britain's supermarket operators are steeled for the worst. By the end of this week, they will have received official confirmation that the Office of Fair Trading is to subject their activities to the full scrutiny of a straight of a tomage tax. The committee that has been set up to investigate the possible implications is not likely to be the usual long-winded stalling exercise: it consists of the full scrutiny of a

Monopolies Commission inquiry.

Number 11. But what is to happen when the inquiry ends? The gation is depressing enough for MMC may find that supplier discounts are not being passed on to consumers, but who is to determine the true cost of selling a can of baked beans? New Labour will surely not want to venture will surely not want to venture into a system where profit margins are dictated: that would hardly go down well with all those who have Tesco shares tucked into their Peps and pension funds.

No, this new Labour Govern-ment has trumpeted the merits of competition to bring down prices and increase productivity. What it would like to see is a bit more competition for grocery sales. Within the M25, 80 per cent of superstores belong to Tesco or Sainsbury. Where are the Wal-marts or French hypermarkets that would drive prices down?

When Gordon Brown asked McKinsey to take a look at the industry, the consultants were rather enthusiastic about the skills of British grocers but berated the regulatory system, and planning in particular, as the cause of high prices. The Treasury has, appar-



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

tions, local authorities would be asked to bear in mind consumer choice. This might be interpreted as planners being asked to take a more generous view of applications coming for grocers other than Tesco or Sainsbury. The Department of the Environment has not yet embraced this at-tempt to distort the free market but there is time. And remember, something has to happen or con-sumers will feel let down.

Still a recession for manufacturers

The Chancellor's desire to be seen in the best light explains his somewhat inconsistent approach to accounting. For the purposes of his re-cent Budget, tax relief that he took away from us did not feature in the tax account, but tax credits that he did dble out were very much to be included in the sums. He took the advice of the

government statisticians on the mists are increasingly of the view latter choice but not the former. The result of this pick and mix approach was a somewhat flatter-ing view of the impact of his Budget tax changes. It meant that he was able to pose for postspeech photographs with the glow of a man who has just gen-erously dispensed £4.5 billion to the people instead of showing the mean features of a Chancellor who could barely bring himself to let go of £250 million. Here is a

man who understands what candelight can do for a complexion. But his advisers should have warned him that cosmetics and candlelight confer only transito-ry benefits. The misleading treatment of Miras which has now been unmasked is only the latest deception to emerge from a Budg-et speech which had enough sins of omission to bore a confessor. The Chancellor should have been straight with his public and

rejoiced in delivering a truly pru-dent budget. While the econo-

that the country may escape the worst of recession, the soft landing is not yet assured. The fig-ures for the last quarter of last year that emerged earlier this week showed a gloomier picture than most economists had expected, with negligible growth during those months. Whatever the City optimists say, there are many manufacturers who contend that if it feels like a recession, as it does to them, then that is what it is. They would forgive the Chan-

cellor for robbing them of their Miras and married couple's allowance if the Bank of England could provide them with another cut in innerest rates. That looks increasingly likely, after received and the second se yesterday's news that inflation is at its lowest since the Bank gained its independence of gov-ernment. When the Monetary Policy Committee meets next month, the pressure for a cut will be strong. The manufacturers would like a half a point straight away but the MPC could feel that a quarter now with the option of another later would be more approportate.

They will be as cautious as the Chancellor was with his Budget. But he has another two Budgets before the next election.

Sterling floats idea for a shake-up

ord Sterling of Plaistow was in ebullient mood as he un-veiled his plans to relaunch the good ship P&O as a glamor-ous, focused business. When the reshaped company heads for a quote on the New York Stock Ex-change, as it surely will, its luxury cruise business should guarantee an enthusiastic following among bermuda-clad investors.

But the restructuring of the business is not Lord Sterling's only project. He would like to resurrect the British shipping industry, which means persuading the Government to introduce a less

hostile tax regime. This are lobbyist knrws his way around Whitehall as was apparent with the Budget day reve-lation that the Treasury was

whited stalling exercise: it consists of just one man, Lord Alexander of Weedon.

No doubt the lawyer turned banker is now approaching the shipping industry with a totally open mind but Lord Sterling is optimistic that before very long the may be able to sail his liner. he may be able to sail his liners back to British bases, under the British flag. The Deputy Prime Minister, former ships steward John Prescott, is enthusiastic.

Whether the dawning of a new tonnage tax will be celebrated in duty free champagne depends on the outcome of a debate in Berlin this weekend. Lord S has not given up hope on this one either.

Silverman lining

AMERICAN business pays by resuits, So Henry Silverman, boss of (des/Cendant, had his 1998 bonus cut by half when the group was knocked sideways by a \$500 million accounting fraud in the company he merged with. This left a salary plus bonus of only \$2.8 million. Fortunately, rebasing his share options after the troubles allowed him to make a fast buck that our own fat cats could scarcely dream of. Clearly not payment by results: more a prize for not being a fraudster. Rarely has honesty paid so well.

ier concern over Iceland GM stance Customers enthusiastic

tailer, is reaping big rewards from its determined stance against genetically modified food, according to Malcolm Walker, the chairman and chief executive.

Mr Walker said that he believes thousands of new customers are shopping at Iceland because of the company's policy of minimising the amount of GM foodstuffs sold in its shops.

At yesterday's presentation of the company's annual results, it displayed some of what it claims to be hundreds of letters from customers applauding the policy. One correspondent, Anna Turnbull Walker of Hythe, Kent, wrote: Although I am a traditional Sainsbury's/Tesco shopper I have recently started using Iceland because of your splendid attitude towards GM food.

Helped by such consumer enthusisam, leeland reported 10 per cent increases in both sales and underlying profits for the year to January 2. The group said that an expanding home delivery inititative

In the 11 weeks of the new year, sales grew by 10 per cent. Iceland said. This advance is some way ahead of the growth :. generated by supermarket ri-vals, although sales in the com-up on last time.

grew 16 per cent. The company said that the home delivery service had begun in time for the start of 1998, and that the initial rise in sales activity had slowed by the first marger of 1900. the first quarter of 1999.

Mr Walker said that sales picked up markedly towards the end of the current-year trading period. He attributed the improvement to the airing. of new advertisements. The home delivery service

is available nationally and is, currently free. However Mr Walker said it was given a tri-al to the levy of a El delivery charge.

The average value of spending per Iceland customer has

risen from £6 to £9 over the past two years. The group said that the much larger average size of shopping bill for goods delivered to bornes accounts for much of the increase. The average shopping bill for home-delivered orders is £42. lectand's annual pre-tax profits rose 27 per cent to £55. million, up from £43.5 million. However, the figures were flattered by the absence of £7 million of exceptional items which depressed previous year profits. The final dividend is 4p making a total for the year of 5.8p, 7.4 per cent



Malcohn Walker, bottom, with Andrew Pritchard and Russell Ford

ITC blocks BSkyB's appeal

THE Independent Televi-sion Commission yesterday blocked attempts by BSkyB to force the ITV companies to make their new channel, IIV2, available on digital satellite (Raymond Snoddy

BSkyB, in which News International, owner of The Times, has a 40 per cent stake, appealed to the ITC that ITV's failure to supply ITV2 was anti-competitive.

The Commission, however, decided that there were no grounds for forcing the ITV companies to make the channel available. The two largest ITV companies, Granada and Carlton, own ONdigital, the main commercial digital terrestrial service.

Granada buys 18.6% of SMG

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

GRANADA GROUP yesterday put down a marker for an eventual takeover of Scottish Media Group by buying 18.6 per cent of the company from Mirror Group for £110.3 million.

Although Granada said it had "no present intention" of making an offer for the whole of SMG unless someone else makes a bid or builds a stake of 15 per cent or more, the deal follows a familiar pattern.

In the case of both London Weekend and Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, Granada first built up stakes before later moving to buy the companies outright. If it were to take out SMG - which has the ITV licences north of the border — Granada would, with the ex-ception of tiny Border TV, control all the ITV franchises from John O'Groats down to the Midlands.

The deal shuts out Carlton Communications, which was also interested in the Mirror stake, from Scotland. It is believed that CanWest, the Canadian international broadcaster, and CLT-Ufa, the Bertels-mann-owned broadcaster, were also interested.

Mirror says it sold the SMG stake to concentrate on its newspaper interests. The 915p a share deal represented an 8.5 per cent premium to SMG's closing price on Monday and a £47 million profit on the purchase of SMG's shares in 1994

Approach lifts Jarvis shares

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SHARES in Jarvis Hotels jumped 261/p to 1581/p yesterday after the group announced receiving a "highy tentative" bid approach

(Dominic Walsh writes). There was instant speculation that Jarvis may be seeking to take itself private, but analysts said that the wording of its state-ment suggested an outside approach from the likes of Accor of France or Starwood Hotels of the US.

Jarvis, which has 63 hotels, floated at 175p in 1996, but investors' coolness to three-star hotels depressed its shares. Analysis said a 160p offer, valuing Jarvis at £280 million, would be enough to clinch a deal.

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(investment company with a variable capital)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **OFSHAREHOLDERS**

to be held on Thursday, 22nd April. 1999, at Concert and Congress centre "de Doelen", entrance Schouwburgplein 50, Rotterdar 09:30 hours.

1. Opening

2. Report of the Management Board for the financial year 1998

Coordenation and confin of the Annual Accounts for the funcial year 1998

. Consideration and confin the profit appropriation i. To discharge the Manageo

Board and the Supervisory Board 6. Composition of the Supervisory
Board

(investment company with a osriable capital) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Thursday, 22nd April, 1999, at Concert and Congress centre "de Doelen", entrar Schouwburgplein 50, Rotterdam, at 11.45 hours. AGENDA

1. Opening

1. Opening 2. Report of the Management Board for the linancial year 1998 Consideration and confirm

of the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1998

Consideration and confirmati

the profit appropriation

Board and the Supervisory Board

Composition of the Supervisory

8. Any other business

Copies of the full agendas and of the Annual Reports for 1998 can be obtained from National Westminster Bank PLC, Nat West Investments Counter, e/o Nat West Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgare, London EC2M 3UR or Roberto U.K. Limited, 43-45 Portman Square, London W1H 0HE. Telephone 0171-935 4268.

Holders of Bearer Share Certificates desirous of attending or being represented at the Meeting, should lodge their Certificates by hand (postal deliveries will not be accepted for voting purposes) with the National Westminster Bank PLC, at the address shown above (between the bours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) in exchange for a receipt, not later than Thursday, 15th April, 1999. Beauchial owners whose Bearer Share Certificates are presently deposited with a Bank must obtain a Certificate of Deposit signed by the Bank as evidence that such Bank is holding the Share Certificates. The Certificate of Deposit must be lodged against receipt, by that Bank, with the National Westminster Bank PLC, it was according to the Certificate of Deposit must be lodged against receipt, by that Bank, with the National Westminster Bank PLC,

in accordance with the requirements stated above. The receipt for Bearer Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit will constitute evidence of a shareholder's enridement to attend and vote at the Meeting and should be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall. If a holder desires to appoint a proxy, who need not be a member of the Company, to attend and vote in his seed, a form of proxy may be obtained from the National Westminster Bank PLC as above and this form of proxy arost be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt for the Beaver Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-share Certificates registered in the name of Nationa Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited desirous of attending or being represented at the Meeting must obtain a receipt or Certificate of Deposit in the same way as holders of Bearer Share Certificates. If they desire to attend the Meeting as person or to be represented they must obtain a form of proxy signed by National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited, which form must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt exchanged for the Sub-share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-share Certaricates or Certainate of Deposit.

Beneficial owners of Sub-shares registered in any name other than that of
National Provincial Bank (Nontineer) Limited, holders of Registered Full Shares
and Stareholders who maintain a Shareholder's Account with the Company
wishing to attend and vote at the Meeting or to appoint a proxy to attend and
vote in their stead, must signify their intention in writing to the Secretary of
Roberto N.V. or Rolinco N.V. (whichever is applicable), Cookingel 120, NL-3011
AG Rotterdam, Netherlands to arrive not later than Thursday, 15th April, 1999.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT ROTTERDAM Dated this 24th day of March, 1999.

(registered in Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Netherlands

INFORMATIVE MEETING FOR SHAREHOLDERS to be held on Thursday, 22nd April, 1999, at Concert and Congress centre "de Doelen", entrance schouwburgplein 50, Rotterdam, at

AGENDA

2. To discuss the Report of the Management Board for the linancial year 1998

. To discuss the Annual Accounts for the financial year

To discuss the profit

To discuss the discharge of the Management Board and the Supervisory Board

To discuss the composition of the Supervisory Board

. Any other business

(registered in Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Netberlands ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

to be held on Monday, 3rd May, 1999, at the offices of Robeco Aprilles N.V., Kaya Wilson Papa Godett 24, Willemstad, Curação, Netherlands Antilles, az 10.30 hours.

Report of the Management Board for the financial year

of the Annual Accounts for the financial year 1998

. Consideration and confirm the profit appropriation i. To discharge the Management

Board and the Supervisory Board . Composition of the Supervisory

7. Any other business

Copies of the full agendas and of the Annual Report for 1998 can be obtained from National Westminster Bank PLC at the address shown below or Robeco U.K. Limited, 43-45 Portman Square, London W1H OHE

Holders of Bearer Share Certificates desirous of attending or being rootees or bearer Share Certificates destroits of attending to being represented at the above stated Meetings, should lodge their Share Certificates by hand (postal deliveries will not be accepted) with the National Westminster Bank P.L.C., NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR (between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) as follows: INFORMATIVE MEETING - NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY, 15TH APRIL, 1999. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - NOT LATER THAN MONDAY. 26TH APRIL, 1999, IN EXCHANGE FOR A RECEIPT.

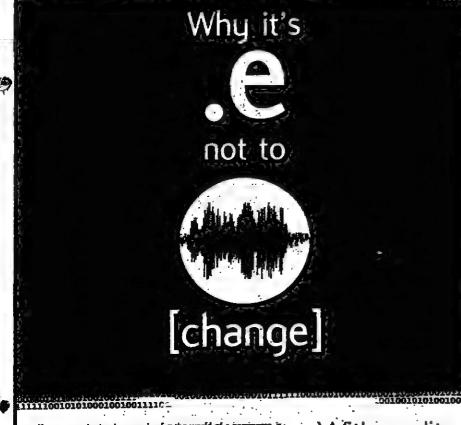
with a Bank must obtain a Certificate of Deposit signed by the Bank as evidence that such Bank is holding the Share Certificates. This Certificate must be lodged against receipt, by that Bank, with the National Westmin Bank PLC, in accordance with the requirements stated above.

The receipt for the Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit will constitue of a shareholder's entitlement to attend and vote at the Meeting and should be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall. If a holder desi to appoint a proxy, who need not be a member of the Company, to attend and vote in his stead, a form of proxy may be obtained from the National Westminster Bank PLC as above and this form of proxy must be presented at the door of the Meeting Hall together with the receipt for the Share Certificates or Certificate of Deposit.

Shareholders who maintain a Shareholder's Account with the Company, wishing to attend either or both Meetings or to appoint a proxy in their stead, must signify their intention in writing to the Secretary, Rorento N.V. c/o Avirento B.V., Cooksingel 120, NL-3011 AG Rosterdam, Netherlands to

Although proxies may attend, votes will not be cast at the Informative Meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGEMENT PHOLIPSBURG Dated this 24th day of March 1999.



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Morse **Holdings** BY CHRIS AYRES SHARES of Morse Holding the computer reseller and serv

Cautious

debut for

ices company, made their stock market debut at 250p yesterday, the very bottom of the suggested pricing range, while its venture capitalist backers significantly scaled back the number of shares offered to the market.

The uncertain debut reflects growing unease in the City about the prospects of the in-creasingly volatile information technology sector. Many ana-lysts predict a correction later this year caused by blue chip companies delaying IT projects until after the millennium. However, Morse yesterday in-sisted that "most of our custom-

ers have rising budgets". There are also worries that a recent slowdown in the US computer industry will eventually hit resellers such as Morse and downmarket rivals Computacenter and Compel.

Morse's shares suffered a disappointing first day of trad-ing, rising only 2p to 152p. This valued the shares at 23 times historic earnings - low for the IT sector overall, but relatively high for a computer reseller. The stake held by Duncan McIntyre, Morse's chief executive, is valued at £30.5 million. Venture capitalist sharehold-

ers in Morse include 3i and PPM Ventures, which offered 58 million of their shares to the market, instead of the planned 88 million. However, Morse still managed to raise about £60 million from new shares. Mr McIntyre reduced his personal stake in Morse from 10 per cent to 7.2 per cent.





MICHAEL CLARK

Bitter aftertaste in City at Scottish & Newcastle

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE held all the appeal of a flat pint of bitter as its share price fell 1914p to 675p following yet an-

other profits downgrade.
This time BT Alex Brown. the broker, has cut its profit estimate for the year from £414 million to £402 million and for next year by £18 million to £430 million. Last year the group made profits of £422 mil-lion and at the halfway stage recorded a drop of 4.5 per cent to £214.5 million as beer volume dropped 3 per cent. BTAB blames flat beer sales

and lower profits from Center Parcs, because of the cost of upgrading three of its eight sites in the Benelux countries.

Beer sales proved difficult over Christmas and conditions continue to worsen. This has led to fears that the group is on the verge of issuing a profits warning. Concerns about trading have been reflected in the share price which has underperformed by 25 per cent during the past year having tumbled from a peak of 945p.

Fresh opening losses on Wall Street left London licking its wounds. The FTSE 100 index finished 92.3 down at 6.060.5 as the Dow Jones industrial average kicked in with an opening fall of 200 points. The FTSE 250 index shed 12.8 at 5,475.6 as turnover reached 1.15 billion shares.

Jarvis Hotels jumped 26thp to 158/4p on news of a bid approach. Speculators say the bidder is Accor of France. which is ready to offer be-tween 160p and 200p a share. That would value the hotel chain at between E280 million and £352 million.

But management buyout talks at Swallow Group. which used to be known as Vaux Group, have been terminated. The shares retreated just 105p to 2585p. Analysts say the company is still vulnerable to a takeover from the likes of Whitbread, 14p firmer at 962p, and possibly Lad-

broke, unchanged at 285p. Speculative support lifted Capital Corporation 5p to 6612p with the supporters claiming that the London casino operator, may soon find itself on the receiving end of yet another bid approach. The group has already rejected an rival London Clubs, down 2p to 167p, and recently announced it had also rejected other approaches. Almost two million shares



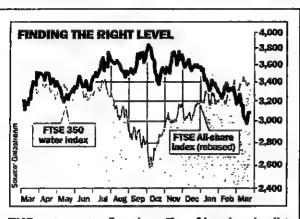
Martin O'Neill, right, manager of Leicester City, with John Robertson, his assistant, Rumours of a bid saw shares add 4p

changed hands including several big lines of 150,000 at 57p, 125,000 at 04p, 200,000 at 64p

and 222,500 at 65!-p.
They have been selling technology stocks this week on Wall Street. Yesterday it spilled over into London with Easynet Group, down 31p to 369p. Misys, 26p to 624p and Zergo Holdings, 45p to 780p. Takeover favourite Pilking-

ton firmed 2p to 65%p as Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, initiated coverage of the shares with a "hold" recommendation. ED&F Man fell 13p to 270%p as several large lines of stock came on offer at a discount to the ruling price. They included 650,000 shares at 268p and a further 500,000 at 268p.

Alexon, which reported a drop in profits on Monday



THE water sector flowed against the downward force of the rest of the market helped by some encour-aging words from one leading broker.

Credit Lyonnais Securities, the broker, says the sector has been oversold and is urging clients to take advantage of recent weakness. Angela Whelan, who fol-

lows the water companies for Credit Lyonnais, says they are undervalued and that worries about price cuts have been overdone by the City.

Top of her shopping list is Pennon Group, up 17p to 956p, Yorkshire Water, 30%p better at 457p, and Thames, down 21%p to

936p. Anglia Water is also seen as worthy of mention with the price adding 5p to 745p, despite a move by Ms Whelan to trim her profit forecasts for the current year and 2000.

There have been worries about Anglia's level of prof itability, but the dividend remains covered despite fears that it may have to be cut.

prospects, fell 8p to 1884; Patrick Cooper, a director, ha sold 15,000 shares at 197p reducing his holding to 60,046.

Thorntons held steady a 230½p as Michael Thornton deputy chairman, unloade 250,000 shares at 231p. It reduce es his beneficial holding to 1.8 million shares, or 2.83 per cen

Greycoat, fighting off a bid from Delancey, rose 5½p to 205½p. That compared with the all-paper offer from De lancey, up 1p to 98½p, now worth 193p, ex the dividend. Westminster Health Care firmed another 3½p to 303½p in the wake of Monday's bid approach. Word is an offer of 350p a share may be on the way valuing the company at 232 million.

Leieester City touched 55p before ending the day 4p better at 451/2p. The Premier League football club received a bid approach earlier this year and that was followed by a local press report on February 17, also claiming the club had received an approach. But Leicester says that since that date no formal approaches have been made.

In after hours trading it emerged that Julian Richer has bought 1.1 million shares, or 7.69 per cent, in Thomas French, unchanged at 20%p. At least one million of the shares were bought from Undervalued Asset Trust.

Shares of Morse, the computer services group, begun trading on the grey market following a placing by Merrill Lynch, the broker, at 250p. The price touched 2524p before closing at 252p as 1.6 million shares were traded. ☐ GILT-EDGED: Shorterdated issues drew encouragement from the benign inflation numbers that could provide

sues lost ground reflecting falls among European bonds. In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt fell 23p to £117.15 as 21,000 contracts were traded. In longs, Treas-ury 8 per cent 2021 fell 40p to £147.05, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 eased lp to £107.73.

scope for another cut in inter-

est rates. But longer-dated is-

□ NEW YORK: US shares were sharply lower as worries loped Wall Street. At midday the Dow Jones industrial aver-

	New York (midda)	r):
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	Tokyo: NKisei Aserago	16019.10 (-359.58)
	Hong Kong; Hang Seng	11041.01 (-66.23)
7	Amsterdam: AEX lodex	532.68 (-11.59)
	Sydney: A0	2987.6 (+Z.1)
	Frankfurt: DAX	4915.03 (-112.03)
ļ	Singapore: Stats	1492.87 (-4.81)
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MAJOR INDICES

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Caird Gp		+ 22'2	
Newsquest		+ 30	+ 81
Amey	6324	+ 4212	
Yorkshire	457	+ 301=	
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Estates Agency		+ 25	+ 5.0
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Ascol		+ 1212	+ 4.9
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Somerfield		+ 13	+ 4.0
TeleWest.,		+ 10	+ 3.9
Autologic	342'2	+ 1212	+ 3.7
Br Land	518	+ 18	+ 3.6
FALLS:			
			A
Stock	CHOSE	unag	CHILL

P&O shares buoyant

ket has already got so animated about the break up partly reflects the depth of ill-feeling towards the company's current structure. Much of the erratic recent share price performance can be attributed to P&O's odd collection of assets, and the subsequent lack of transparency and predictability to earnings. It is hard to find convincing synergy between construction management, exhibition centres and

But the exuberance of the P&O share price performance yesterday — on a day when the FTSE 100 slid nearly 100 points — also shows that good potential lies in what is left behind. It is easier to comprehend P&O's focus on boliday cruises, ferries and ports. It is also easier to see the promise lurking in these activities.

IT will take P&O three years to complete its great garage sale. The fact that the stock marcruise ships earns a 15 per cent return from day one. Its biggest market, Americans aged 50 to 59, will have doubled in size between 1990 to 2010. Moreover, P&O says cruising accounts for just 5 per cent of the US vacation

market. There is room to grow.

The £2 billion-plus cash likely to flow from the disposals will relieve the group's debt posithe disposals will relieve the group's determinent ion, and help investment in this most famous cruising brand. It may also finance a programme of returning capital to shareholders.

However, a re-rating of P&O in line with US cruise operators offers the best upside for the latest page of the latest trades on a prospective

the shares. P&O stock trades on a prospective earnings multiple of 16 times. New York-listed rivals' shares change hands at 25 times. The existence of this substantial discount makes P&O shares a buy.

Granada/SMG the rise of rival broadc At present it would be tricky, although not impossi-THE shares of Scottish Media Group gave a joyous 22p jump yesterday as Granada ble, for Granada to take control of SMG. Granada is algobbled up the 18.6 per cent stake in the company off loaded by in-transition Mirror ready close to the regulatory limits on television advertising revenue market shares. Group. It was entirely rational to mark the shares up. Af-Yet the digital and satellite stations may succeed far enough to dilute Granada's ter all, there is now a big me-dia beast not just stalking SMG, but inside the tent.

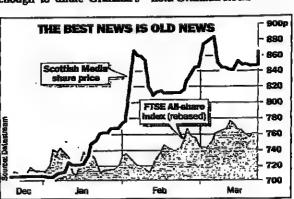
if the price is right. So much is obvious. But it would be dangerous to assume that Granada will pounce for the remainder of SMG anytime soon. It is more likely that Granada has bought the stake for much

And do not forget that anoth-er 20 per cent of SMG could be prised loose from Flextech

cannier strategic reasons. First, it keeps SMG from the clutches of arch-rival Carlton Communications, Secondly, the stake forms a wonder-

share of advertising. If they ful insurance policy aginst do Granada can turn on the SMG tap to protect its position. If they don't, Granada still has a valuable asset.

SMG shares have had a good 1999 on the back of takeover hopes but the best, for the moment, is behind it. The cuteness of the deal, however, underlines the reasons to hold Granada stock.



Delta

DELTA had an exhausting 1998, truly an annus horribilis. The wounds caused by the retreat from cables were deep. More than 4,000 jobs were lost in restructuring the group; the collapse in Far Eastern export markets whipped vital support away from the business just as it was most vulnerable; and adverse currency movements

rubbed salt into the sores. The dismal year ended with the annual dividend be-

ing cut by half. Delta will continue to struggle, racking up more exceptional restructuring charges this year. But light, albeit far off and dim, is beginning to appear at the end of this unisant tunnel.

It is perhaps only small recompense for long-term inves-tors but in its industrial servgrowth story. It supplies bat-tery makers with electrolytic manganese dioxide. A pur-

chase in Australia made it number one in this field worldwide, with 20 per cent of the market. The division's galvanising business has also been growing strongly in

the Antipodes. The plumbing and electrical division are less promising from a growth perspec-tive, but efficacy gains could bolster future profitability. Having come this far, hold.

Hay & Robertson

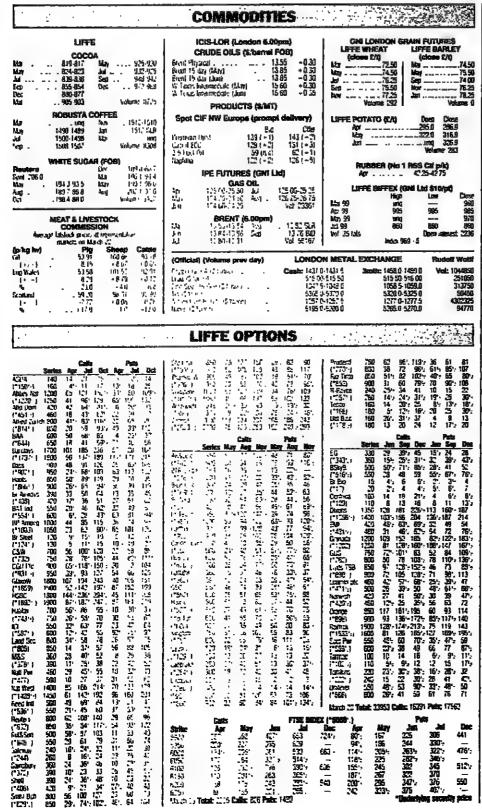
YOU can put the 34 per cent rise in profits at Hay & Robertson, the merchandising group, down to the fashion tastes of Liam Gallagher. Or partly at least.

H&R owns the rights to the Kangol brand — currently favoured by the pop icon and where the Oasis man leads, hordes of fashion-conscious teenagers follow.

er good at snapping up rights to unfashionable brands just as they gain public favour, and then using them to flog garish leisurewear. Lance Yates, chief executive, is a past master at shifting overpriced branded clothes to the gullible. So much so that the Rolling Stones regularly hire him

to advise on merchandising. Even so, H&R has to run pretty fast even to stand still. Kangol's appeal may not last for long, and the company needs to make more welltimed rights purchases to sustain future growth.

At 1011/2p, down 4p yesterday on some profit taking, the stock trades on an historic p/e of 13. This represents reasonable, but not bargain basement, value for a small company occupying an insecure market place. Yet its football-related brands — backed by big-name players such as David Ginola - have encouraging dependability and, given management's proven abil-



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Power struggle over EMU has only just begun

skar Lafontaine is simply the first victim of a longterm power struggle that is built in to the structure of economic and monetary union. The Maastricht treaty set up conflicting rights to economic policy formation, with little or no democratic accountability. This flawed structure reflects compromises between national goals underlying the agreement, most significantly the

Franco-German bargain. The French Government wanted monetary union to recover control over monetary policy. After the failure of Mitterrand's socialist experiment of 1981-83, the franc fort policy meant tying the franc to the mark, so that French monetary policy was set by the Bundesbank. With policy now formed by the European Central Bank, French subservience is removed. Germany wanted a much more thorough-going federal union in Europe, in-

The latent problems inherent within the European single currency are already bubbling to the surface bility - something that is no part

of the French concept. But the limited French agenda was Mitter-rand's price for supporting German reunification in 1990. Losing the mark was the nasty

part of the federal Europe project for the German public, so the common currency's prospects had to be detached from unsound "Club Med" governments — Italy, Spain and even France. Fiscal as well as monetary policy was taken even furcratic) control. The ECB is answerable to nobody, and is supposed to set the "one-size-fits-all" monetary policy. The Maastricht treaty and the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) set up rules for all participating countries to obey, the most important being the 3 per cent-of-GDP government deficit limit for 1997, with further deflation to nil in the

revocable surrender of foreign exchange and monetary flexibility. and all possibilities of economic policy adjustment are excluded. We can sit back and wait for the explosion, given the widely different economic conditions and policy requirements of Germany, France, Italy and Spain. In particular, Germany can expect rising unemploy-

ment and Spain rising inflation. So who really sets eurozone monetary policy? In theory, it is the ECB. But an important aspect of monetary policy is government bond issuance, which remains un-der the control of individual governments. Likewise, it interacts with foreign exchange rate policy. which is the province of the euro-11 finance ministers. By fixing the dollar/euro rate, for example, they could ensure the imposition on the



idea, you might think).

In fiscal policy too, there are many fingers in the pie. Suppose ing in Germany and, perhaps, Italy. A natural response would be a tax cut. Eurozone unemployment is 11 per cent, compared with 6.2

in the US, so a little demand stimulus could safely be tried, given inflation at zero. This was Herr Lafontaine's perfectly reasonable Covernment pursuing such a poli-cy would abandon compliance with the SGP. And the ECB has announced that it would tighten monetary policy in response. But this would deflate France and Spain too, where demand is adequate and the SGP being implemented. The ECB claims a role in German fiscal policy, and this implicitly brings in France and Spain. At no stage are voters directly involved.
When it comes to structural reform, surely not the ECB's province, it nonetheless intervenes, and

tended to win the argument with Herr Lafontaine, Essential to achieving a large, durable reduction of the eurozone's tragically

ibility, in hiring, firing and wages. But with fiscal and monetary policy a repressive and undemocratic battleground, how likely is it that voters will accept lesser job and wage security? More likely, we will see more ruinous collective wage action, like the recent excessive IG Metall settlement, and governments committed to preserving privileges for existing job holders; and even adding new absurdities, like the French 35-hour week. The power struggle instituted by the Maastricht treaty will leave voters with influence only where they are least likely to be rational — and could threaten the liberalising single market reforms, whose guard-ian is the European Commission.

The confusion of powers in eurozone economic policy invites a prolonged turf war, probably with ris-

ingly angry German public. The only logical way forward will be to move toward a democratic federal Europe. But for that the French will have to abandon their control over policy, and the Germans will have to accept Club Med voters having rights over their currency. Just how this will be achieved, given the stagnation, unemployment and power struggles that lie ahead, is hard to see. It is true that separation of powers, the famous 'checks and balances", work well in the US. But their system was set up with a clean slate and much more intelligently to start with. and the crucial issue of states rights was only settled by massive blood-letting in the Civil War, Let us hope that British voters, when and if they are finally consulted, will have the sense to steer clear of what promises to be a nightmare.

☐ Charles Dumas is a director of

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Bangalore's program for success

basketball court and a cluster of low-rise of-fice buildings; a group of young people, twentysome-thing, dressed in polo shirts, khakis and trainers are milling about with the breezy confidence of the overeducated middle class. It is early morning but pleasantly warm.

Where are you? A college campus in Seattle or perhaps a US high-tech firm in Palo Alto, California? The boss appears, a middle-aged man in blue eans and T-shirt that fits the industry's informal culture.

But wait a minute, everyone appears to be Asian. Wandering down the road, you pass a huge satellite dish and two oxen pulling a cart. Nearby, a woman balances a basket of wet cement on her head and walks barefoot across a building site. This is India.

The company you have just visited is Infosys, one of several hundred software businesses that have turned Bangalore, once a sleepy Indian Army garrison town, into an electronic Klondike. In the space of five years, the population has grown from 1.5 million to five million. India's best and brightest graduates are fleeing south from the stifling heat and dust of the northern plains to the balmy climate and fashionable bars of Bangalore.

Meanwhile, the country's best export, computer scientists and mathematicians, are making their way home, dragCarl Mortished reports on the

growth of India's Silicon Valley

and IBM. This month, infosys was launched on the Nasdaq stock exchange where its share price soared, valuing the busi-ness at more than \$2 billion.

It has made many dollar mil-

lionaires out of its youthful staff; when the company joined the Bombay Stock Exchange in 1992, the founders set aside 10 per cent of the equity, issuing warrants to employees, which can be exercised at 100 rupees (150p). Seven years on, the shares, taking account of stock splits, are worth the equivalent of about 24,000 rupees. More companies are poised to follow the path to Wall Street.

Infosys and its rivals, WIPRO, Tata Consultancy Services, NUT and countless others, provide software services. India is a poor country with little oil or minerals. Desperately lacking basic infrastructure, it boasts two assets: people and a location. A vast pool of highly educated engineers who speak English are heading for work when the staff of America's banks, insurance companies and telecom giants are tucked up in bed.

Linked to two telecom satellites with an eye on South Asia, they log into the systems of companies such as Boeing. Northern Telecom, Bell AtlanStrauss, British Airways and Unilever, updating, repairing and writing code for new pro-

Large teams work exclusively for big clients in what are known as Offshore Software Development Centres. A key source of work is the millennium bug, accounting for about 20 per cent of Infosys sales, but the company expects the euro to fill the gap after De-

The key to their success is cost. A typical Indian software graduate from a top technology college might comand a sal-ary of about \$6,000 (£3,700). His equivalent in Silicon Valley could ask for \$60,000, a cost arbitrage that enables In-fosys to challenge rivals such as Saplent and Cambridge Technology Partners.
British Telecom has out-

sourced most of its software development to an Indian venture, Mahindra British Telecom, as did British Airways with its data-processing centre in Bombay. Oracle developed the operating system for its network computer in Bangaiore. Most of the UK's clearing banks and building societies are moving back office soft-

ware maintenance to India. owes much to the work of De-

dustry lobby. Like many, he left India to seek opportunities, training as an accountant and later graduating from Im-perial College in London with

a degree in computing. For Mr Mehta, the brain drain has been the making of India. "Lots of people argue it is bad. But I think it is better to have brain drain than brain in the drain."

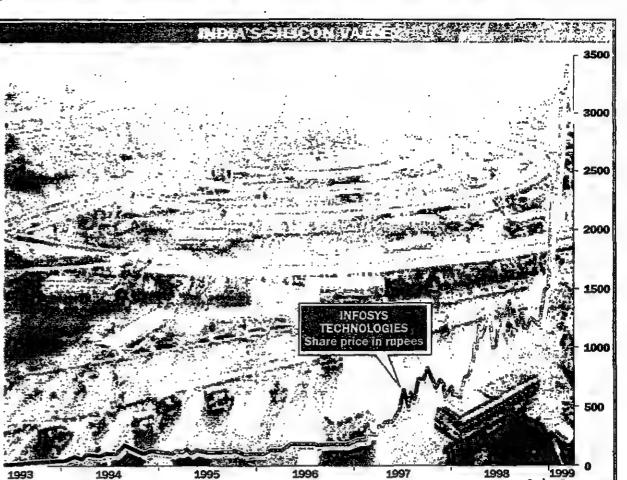
A bigger problem was con-vincing India's conservative establishment that this quirky, free-wheeling industry should be encouraged. Tariff barriers made it almost impossible to import the best equipment. "The Government did not understand software - they wanted us to use Russian computers."

But Mr Mehta charmed, cajoled and bullied politicians into granting concessions: bonded software technology parks allowed companies to import IBM mainframes, free of duty. Tax-free profits from exports opened up the lucrative North American and European markets.

n the space of five to ten years, the offshore software industry has grown from almost nothing to represent 10 per cent of India's \$120 billion stock market. Export sales are growing by 50 per cent per year and the new lenging the status of India's industrial mafia; the barons who run India's textile, steel and chemical combines. The new elite are rather different and their needs and attitudes pose real challenges for India's slow-moving Govern-ment and sclerotic state-controlled industries.

Infosys was founded by Narayan Murthy in 1992. He had worked for a subsidiary of Cap Gemini in France in the 1970s. "I-was a leftist when I left India and I met Communist leaders in France, But I realised that the only way to solve india's problems was to create more wealth and it is not the job of Government to

The final blow to his leftwing sympathies came on a trip to Bulgaria where, as a result of a risky conversation in a public place, he was locked up for 72 hours by the police without food or water. They said: You are from a friendly country, that is why we are letting you go." I thought: "Who needs friends like this."



number and need to be rewarded. In his words he wanted to create an ethically run, world-class company. Infosys is highly paternalistic and rewards its people well with ze-ro-interest home loans, marriage loans, a health centre. sauna and canteen (lunch

Every employee — called Infoscions in the company jargon — gets a birthday present: this year it is a backpack. "We wanted to make this a fun place to work."

And it is popular. Infosys recrived 71,000 job applications last year - only 1,300 were made offers. Mr Morthy has created an oasis of talent and opportunity in a world where the latter is in critically short supply. Infosys is literally an oasis: frequent power cuts mean it must generate its own electricity: water is tankered in and company buses provide staff transport to work.

The infoscions of Bangalore are still doing well as an is-land of free-wheeling hightech capitalism but the rest of

structure that is crumbling. Labour costs are going up; salaries in Bangalore are rising 20-25 per cent a year, threatening to erode the cost advantage over the long term.

Critical for the software in-

dustry is new investment in power generation and in the ramshackle telephone network, however, privatisation still seems far off. Foreign in-vestors like AT&T and British Telecom have had their fingers burnt in a clumsy auction of telecoms licences. AT&T recently sued the Government in an attempt to escape the crip-

Privatisation means taking on vested interests: unions, civil servants. Not an easy task in a country that provides no safe-ty net for the unemployed. But the software industry is providing a challenge to the traditional Indian powerbase and the software gurus, such as De-wang Mehta, are almost messianic in their belief that free ing. Five million Indians tune into a Sunday morning televi-

Mr Murthy reckons that India remains dependent on sion programme about com- Bombay and hooked them up puters hosted by Mr Mehta and India's Mr Software has other ideas. He wants to instal computers with internet links in the STDIs, the telephone shops that provide communication for the hundreds of millions of Indians without

> He recently carried but an experiment. Half of India's population is illiterated making e-mail an irrelevance, so he found 18 taxi-drivers in and write.

by video e-mail to their fami lies in the countryside. For one driver, Ram Singh recently married and alone in the big smoke, it was an emo-

tional moment. It took some time to convince his wife to remove her veil in front of the camera. But a few minutes later she was complaining about the cost of the video compared with ordinary e-mail. She decided they must learn to read



Dewang Mehta talks to Ritu Beri, the Indian fashion designer, on his television programme

Volume fall

AS THE rail industry will seen find out. Tom Winsor of Denion Hall drew up the legislation that is supposed to punish train companies for poor performance and has long wanted it enforced with proper severity.

Quite by chance, I once witnessed

his negotiating skills at first hand. It was in a restaurant close to Denton Hall's offices off Fleet Street, and the manager was subjecting the lunchtime and largely business clientele to dance music at a volume that prevent-



ed normal conversation. Winsor asked him to turn it down. The man-

Winsor then pointed out, in lawyerly fashion, I) the proximity of Denton Hall's offices. 2) the large number of Denton Hall partners there today as a result, 3) the fact that none were especially fund of disco music, and 4) the effect on the restaurant's cashflow if they went elsewhere.

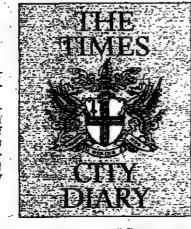
They turned the music down.

FROM Elderstreet Investments's guide to Techtalk, and the world of technology venture capitalists "where English is often a second language": Helpline: an engaged telephone: see Hotune.

Hotline: an engaged telephone with recorded music. Core business: the only part of cor-porate activity the board can explain

Wilde at heart

JUDITH MAYHEW, chairman of policy and resources at the Corpora-tion of London, may have given up her post on the board of Britain in Eubut she has not given up her eu-



her to stay on as an "observer" once the European elections are on us in June. She is considering the idea, and if she accepts will again emphasise that the role is unconnected to her chairmanship of the Corporation committee and reflects her partnership in Wilde Sapte, the law firm.

This will not satisfy those City crities who oppose any involvement by such a Corporation figure in a politi-cal lobbying group while the Corporation's own stance on the euro is officially neutral. Mayhew is not out of the woods yet. I fear.

Family ties

rope, the pro-Europe pressure group. ACQUISITION Strategy and Implementation is a scholarly work inspired by sometimes painful family Britain in Europe is now pressing experiences for Nancy Hubbard, a consultant and academic. She has proven, through statistical analysis. that three quarters of companies involved in hostile takeovers underper-

form thereafter. Several management consultants have come to similar conclusions before. But Hubbard's father, William, ran SCM, one of Hanson's victims. An even bloodier battle was the Blue Circle takeover of Birmid, headed by her father-in-law, Peter Prateley. The book is a roman a clef in which case histories drawn from real life appear, facts carefully amended to protect the innocent. "It was a personal interest," Hubbard says tactfully.

UFFE, the London futures market where two member firms are being investigated for improper trading, is hosting a five a side football competition and inviting those same traders to cripple each other first in the name of sport before the regulator gets to them.

As the trading floor at Liffe's Cannon Street offices is still open for
now, the matches will be held on the
floor of another redundant trading
pit — the London Stock Exchange.
They will have plenty to talk about
in the changing moons. The latest me

in the changing rooms. The latest ru-mours are that Refco, one of the two, has run up 12 million in legal fees since the inquiry started more than two years ago. This will dwarf any penalty imposed by the Life authori-ties — Refco has already denied a £12 million fine.

1.2 mutton june.

Plus I hear another very big name
touch with his 'inner self'

Blowout: Edmond Warner gets in
touch with his 'inner self' has become entangled in the inquiry.

Musical youth

THIS is Edmond Warner, head of Eupreparing for a new career after the Deutsche Bank takeover. He is in Sydney buying a didgeridoo, I put it to him. Normally they plead mistaken identity, or something equally pathetic. But he comes clean. "I'm find-thetic. But he comes clean." I'm find-thetic. ing my inner self." Warner carried the thing home and then found that he couldn't play it. "My five-year-old daughter is better than I am."

> MARTIN WALLER city.diary@the-times.co.uk



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Delta hopes cut in payout heralds recovery

By ADAM JONES

DELTA, the struggling engineer, yesterday said that it is to halve its dividend. but that it hoped that the cut will draw a line under turmoil in the company.

Delta has had to extricate itself from the cutthroat cablemaking industry, offloading some businesses to BICC in 1998 and agreeing to sell the rest earlier this month. The disposals were the subject of £76.3 million of provisions made in 1997.

Although there was no need to increase these provisions in the 1998 figures released yesterday, Delta was still hit by currency and export difficulties. Pre-tax profits fell from E47.8 million to £41.7 miltion, excluding exceptional items and discontinued activities. On the same basis, sales rose from £534.3 million to £603 million.

Exports to Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong were hit by the strong pound. Jon Scott-Maxwell, chief executive. said that Delta had also suffered in Australia and South Africa, where it makes products for local mining industries, be-cause of falls in the Australian dollar and the rand. The combined cur-

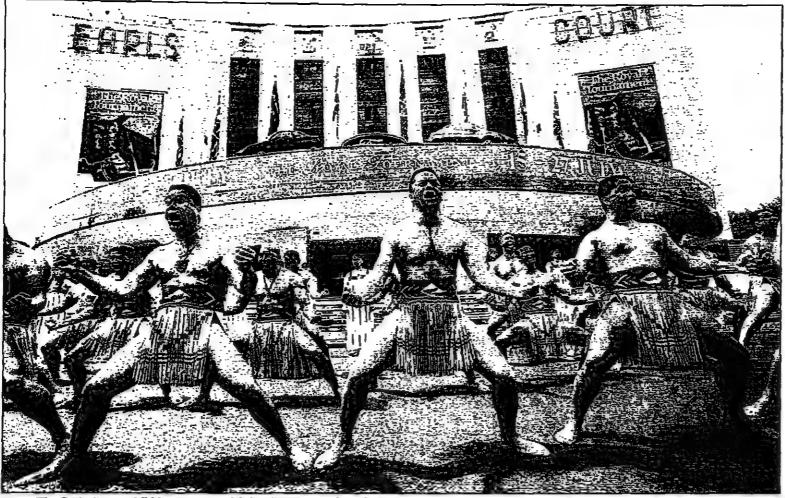
rency hit was E8 million. A further £10 million was lost through the downturn in Asia. Mr Scott-Maxwell said Far East conditions had stabilised. but he did not expect big improvements this year.

So far in 1999, about 200 jobs have been cut in the European plumbing businesses. Gearing is likely to fall from 67 per cent to about 50 per cent in the next few months.

Earnings per share were 15.1p. up from 1997's loss per share of 29.5p. The total dividend is cut from 16p to Sp. The shares yesterday rose 3½p to 1301:p. having fallen from a 12-month high of 340p.

Tempus, page 28

P&O's proposed disposal highlights shortage of exhibition space



The Earls Court exhibition centre, which has been put up for sale by P&O, plays host to a wide variety of shows, events and organisations

FOR the first time in living memory one of the UK's few leading specialist exhibition centres is up for grabs.

P&O yesterday said that, in its drive to move away from property towards its core business of cruises, ferries and ports, one of its key disposals would be the Earls Court Olympia Exhibition Centre, host of events from the Ideal Home Exhibition and the London Boat Show to concerts by Oasis.

Last year 3.25 million people passed through its doors and it hosted 32,000 exhibitors, 140 exhibitions and 120 conferences. The centre, with a combined

floor space of 108,000 sq m is second in size only to Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, which after the opening of its 30,000 sq m extention at the end of last year now has a floor space of more than 190,000 sq m. Languishing far behind the two giants, the UK's third and fourth-largest centres are the Wembley Conference and Exhibition Centre and Coventry's NAC Stone-leigh Park, both with just 16.000 sq m.

This seemingly huge disparity is one factor that will have o be taken into consideration

Earls Court puts spotlight on capital locations for 5,000 cars. Three on-site hotels with 1,000 bedrooms

when a price tag is eventually placed on the site. Although it has net operating assets of £181 million, its value is sure to rise significantly above this figure because it is the only site in London capable of staging major exhibitions on a scale demanded by international companies needing a springboard into the UK market.

"It's not as if you could compare it to selling a terraced house, looking at another sold down the road a few weeks back," says Austin Hawkin, deputy director of the Association of Exhibition Organisers (AEO). "It is in an unique position. The UK has always had a

shortage of exhibition space, especially in Central London." There is more exhibition space in Paris than in the whole of the UK. Although a veritable giant when compared with other UK centres, the Earls Court site is dwarfed by its European counterparts.

However, the construction of the second phase of a new international exhibition centre in London is currently under way. Excel, on the north side of the Royal Victoria Dock, near Docklands, is to have 66,000 sq m of exhibition hall space, 24,000 sq m of conference meeting and banqueting accommodation, and parking exhibitions industry is due to launch a £200,000 advertising campaign aimed at highlight-ing the business potential of UK sites such as Earls Court. "Only about a dozen exhibi-

tions are genuinely interna-tional or have world signifi-tance," says Mr. Hawkin. "Al-though it is good to have a major centre at Birmingham, in the middle of the country, foreigners aren't keen to go all that way."
The AEO says that, if suc-

cessful, the backers of Excel may well expand it. However, the AEO is also continuing to lobby the Government to create a new space in Central London for conferences and exhibitions that could compete with not just continental, but also American cities.

"Millions of pounds are lost throughout the whole UK coonomy because we do not have the facilities to cater for international conferences - contractors, business travel, hotels and shops, not to mention potential parinerships of exhibiting com-panies with UK companies."

Which all goes to make Earls Court Olympia a magnificent opportunity for someone willing to invest in the venue.

authorities in New Zealand to

grant PPL permission to ex-

pand its flock of AAT-produc-

ing sheep from 147 to up to 10,000. Recent trial results sug-

gested that patients will need

to take high doses of AAT to re-

duce the lung infections caused by cystic fibrosis. The shares ticked up 14p to 1074p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hays to spend £36m on two acquisitions

HAYS, the services conglomerate, is to spend up to £36.8 million making two new acquisitions, one in France and one in the UK. The company, headed by Ronnie Frost, is to pay up to Fr170 million (£19.5 million) for Ceritex, a call centre company in France that provides helpdesk services for French blue chip companies. Hays is paying an initial Fr120 million, with the balance depending on performance. Ceritex last year had operating profits of Frl6.2 million on sales of Fr276 million and had net debt of Fr22 million.

Hays is to pay up to £17.3 million for Crawfords Computers, a privately owned British company that provides database and management services for such clients as Lloyds TSB and the Nationwide Building Society. It is paying an initial £12.3 million for the company, with the rest based on future profits. Crawfords last year had sales of £5.3 million and operating profits of £800,000. Both Crawfords and Ceritex are to be spun into Hays's new Business Process Support division. Mr Frost said: "Ceritex marks Business Process Support's first move into continental Europe in line with our strategy of expanding our UK operations overseas. Both operations present excellent opportunities for strong profit growth."

Ascot cheers the City

ASCOT, the specialist engineer and chemicals group, cheered the market yesterday after reporting a 20 per cent increase in earnings for last year, and said that it had started the current year ahead of expectations. The company reported pre-tax profits of £27 million for 1998, down from £30.7 million last year. However, after stripping out exceptional items, adjusted earnings per share came in at 30p, up from 25.1p. A final dividend of 7.5p is being paid, making a total of 11p, a rise of 22 per cent. The company's shares rose 12½p to 265p.

Sherwood still upbeat

Sometiment of the second of th

SHERWOOD, the Nottingham lace and lingerie group, said that business in 1999 had improved after a 1998 ravaged by the downturn in consumer spending and the fall in the worldwide demand for lace. The company made a £6.5 million 1998 pre-tax loss after £12 million losses at operations from which it has exited, and £7.2 million restructuring charges. The loss per share was 8.9p, against earnings in 1997 of 4p per share. At the operating level, the company made profits of £10.1 million (£11.1 million.) The final and total dividends remain unchanged at 2.3p and 3.6p respectively.

Danka sells division

DANKA BUSINESS SYSTEMS, one of the worst-performing shares on the stock market, had some relief yesterday when it announced that it is selling Danka Services International, its outsourcing business, to Schroder Ventures. The price has not been disclosed. DSI, which is based in Rochester, New York, last year had sales of \$275 million (£170 million). Danka will continue to hold a minority interest in the business. Shares of Danka Business Systems, which have tumbled from 848p less than three years ago, put on 1/4p to

Baynes poor forecast

THE manufacturing climate in the first months of 1999 is proving no better than it was at the end of 1998, according to Charles Baynes, the industrial components maker. Bruce McInnes, the chairman, said: "In the year ahead we expect the UK manufacturing sector to continue to be weak and only start improving in 2000." The company reported pre-tax profits before exceptional items for 1998 down 20 per cent to £18.1 million. Earnings per share came in at 6.68p (7.54p). The dividend remains unchanged at 3.2p.

BLP cuts dividend

BLP, the manufacturer of veneer and PVC products, reported a 22 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £1.9 million for 1998, and cut the dividend, but said that its UK operations were recovering after a rapid downturn in business in the fourth quarter. Malcolm Cohen, the chairman, said: "We have seen some strengthening of our order books and the level of quotations is very encouraging." Earnings per share dropped to 8.3p from 27.6p. The final dividend of 2.5p makes a total of 5p, against 7.5p for 1997.

PPL gets go-ahead

PPL THERAPEUTICS, the producing medicines' the milk of genetically modified sheep, has secured the capacity to allow the fullscale commercial manufac-ture of AAT, its possible treatment for cystic fibrosis (writes Paul Durman).

are planned for later phases.

The backers of Excel —

which include the London

Docklands Development Cor-

poration and Country Heights

Holdings, a Malaysian proper-

ty developer — say they are about to make an "imminent

announcement" about a bond

issue to raise funds necessary.

With turnover of £850 mil-

to complete its second phase.

lion and annual growth of 5 per cent, the UK's exhibition

sector is not to be sniffed at.

But in international terms the

UK is limping behind the main competitors. In May the

This follows the decision by

Tesco to invest in South Korea

BY DOMINIC WALSH

TESCO. the supermarket group, is to invest £130 million in developing a chain of hyper-markets in South Korea in partnership with Samsung. the electronics giant.

The joint venture will initially have net assets of £160 million, with Tesco investing £80 million in cash and the South Korean group injecting assets worth a similar amount. The assets are two hypermarkets trading as Homeplus and

three development sites.
Tesco will initially own 51
per cent of the joint venture. but it will pay a further £50 million in June to lift its stake to 81 per cent. The two Homeplus outlets, averaging 90,000 sq ft, are in Taegu and Pusan, just outside Seoul. At least five more openings are planned in

the next three years. Tesco, which in recent years has established a presence in Central Europe, said that its South Korean move was part of a strategy of expanding into underdeveloped markets. Last year it entered Asia by acquiring 13 Lotus hypermarkets in Thailand and it continues to seek opportunities in Taiwan.

David McCarthy, an analyst for BT Alex Brown, said that although Tesco's diversifications into foreign markets and personal finance would not make significant profits for three to four years, the group was "developing a coherent long-term strategy". He said that outside the UK. Teson was now operating in countries with a total population of



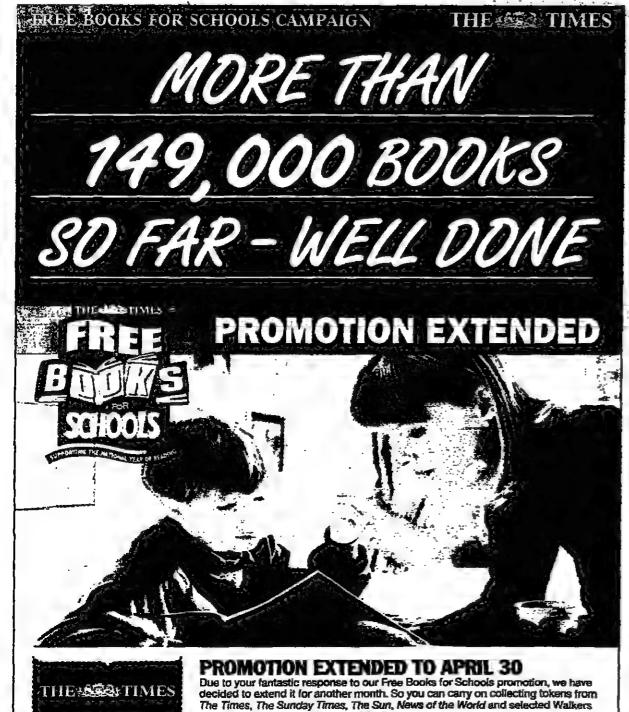
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classic touch of style to the patio, terrace or doorstep. Drainage holes can be drilled in the base if required. Measuring approx. 33cm sq, they come in a choice of (A) white and (B) forest green.

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Spend E36 Tradepoint wins acquisition chance to trade UK shares in US

By CAROLINE MERRELL

TRADEPOINT, the company set up to rival the London Stock Exchange, has won approval to operate in the US, after a lengthy battle.

Approval from the SEC, the US financial regulator, means

that the company will be able to offer its services to US-based fund managers who will be able to buy UK equities direct and without going

through an intermediary.
It is the first time that the SEC has allowed a foreign exchange to trade in the US.

is itself quoted on London's Alternative Investment Market, almost doubled yesterday rising 17%p to 36p. The company floated at 175p in 1996 but the shares dived soon afterwards.

Tradepoint has already

racked up about £30 million of losses and admitted yesterday that it was seeking some more finance. It said: The company can confirm it is in discussions with a number of financing parties and is currently considering the most appropriate of these options."

in the UK, Tradepoint has

signed up only 81 companies. Nic Stuchfield, the chief execu-tive, said: "Tradepoint will open the way for US investors to trade in UK equities with much greater ease and at greatly reduced costs."

Mr Stuchfield added: The transaction costs for US fund managers dealing fin UK equi-ties] in the US is very high." He said he wanted to go live with five or six fund managers within three months Mr Stuchfield said that Tradepoint's share of transactions on the UK stock market varied between 0.5 and 1 per cent. To break even the company's share of transactions has to reach about 1.3 per cent mar-

Under the agreement with the SEC, Tradepoint has by-passed complex and onerous disclosure rules that have in the past effectively prevented an overseas exchange from set-ting up in the world's biggest

In turn, Tradepoint has had to agree a cap on its volumes of 10 per cent of trade on the established London Exchange, though the company acknowl-edged that Tradepoint was in no immediate risk of bumping up against that level. The approval from the SEC came after an application originally submitted in October 1997.



John Severs, left, Severfield-Reeve's managing director, Peter Davison, finance director, and Peter Levine, chairman

Severfield wary after 11% rise

SEVERFIELD-REEVE the structural steel group, has reported an 11 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits in 1998, but struck a cautious note on prospects for this year (Martin Barrow writes).

The company said that al-though the year had started well in its core steelwork business, there is increasing evidence of a tightening of prices and margins. However, Peter Levine, chairman, said that the current order book re-

mained strong at £50 million.

Pre-tax profits for 1998 rose to £10.2 million before exceptional items, from £9.4 million in 1997. Adjusted earnings per share rose by 11 per cent, to 35.9p. The company also booked an exceptional gain of £1.7 million on disposal of noncore businesses. A 7p final dividend makes 12p, up from 10p.

The shares yesterday rose 6p to 3171p. However, they remain at a sharp discount to a 12-month high of 601p struck

Fitch recommends £26m takeover

FITCH, the design and branding consultancy, has joined the rush of smaller companies defecting from the stock market.

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The company is recommending a £26 million take-over bid by Lighthouse Ac-quisition Company Inc. a US private investment and

nanagement company. The offer is worth 62p a share in cash. Shareholders

BY MARTIN BARROW

will also receive a second interim dividend of 0.69p a share. Taken together, the offer represents a premium of 66.1 per cent to Monday's closing share price. Acceptances have been received in respect of 51.2 per cent of Fitch's share capital. Yesterday Fitch reported

£2.6 million pre-tax profits for 1998, up from £2.2 mil-

Hunting hit by oil price weakness

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

WEAK oil prices have taken a harsh toll of profits at Hunting but the petroleum and defence group said that it expects the tough environment in the industry to provide acquisition opportunities this year.

Hunting said yesterday that its 1998 pre-tax profit rose just 4 per cent to £40,4 million. The result would have been far worse had cost cuts not helped to offset a 25 per cent fall in turnover to £981.8 million.

Ken Miller, chief executive, said that trading conditions in the oil division deteriorated sharply in the second half, driving down its profit for the year to £23 million, from £31.6 million previously.

Hunting's defence opera-

tions recorded a 6.6 per cent rise in profit to £25.9 million

thanks to work that it won on the Apache helicopter. A proposed 0.5p final makes an unchanged total of 9.25p. Mr Miller said that it would

take about three months for the recent recovery in oil pric-es to flow through to Hunt-ing's bottom line, but added that, provided the gains were retained, earnings should improve in the second half.

since the end of the year, each worth about £50 million. The Hunting cut costs in its oil

ed last year.

Hunting's defence division

has secured two new contracts

operations by £5 million last Ministry of Defence for an integrated biological defence sysyear, partly as a result of a 20 per cent reduction in staff to tem, and the second is for batteries and chargers as part of about 800. He said that there was scope for further reducthe Armed Forces' Bowman tions, although the savings would not match those record-

He said that Hunting's im-proved balance sheet and inter-est cover of 9.3 times had prompted it to study several acquisition opportunities, some of which were still under "ac-

Norske Bank in merger

By MARTIN BARROW

THE wave of mergers in European banking continued yes-terday in Norway when Dennorske Bank and the state-run Postbanken announced that they are merging to create that country's largest financial services group.

The deal, valued at Kr4.5 billion (£356 million), is expected to yield annual cost savings of Kr450 million by the end of 2003. Combined assets will to-tal Kr315 billion, making the eroud the cighth-larges financial services company in the Nordic region, with 7,500

The merger is expected to be completed by May 14. It is conditional on approval by Norway's Communications Ministry and Finance Ministry. The Norwegian parliament must also approve a change in the legal status of Postbanken which is being restructured ahead of its privatisation.

Amey builds case for move to new sector

By Adam Jones

AMEY is trying to shed its construction group image and move to the more fashionable support services sector of the London Stock Exchange.

The group has been pressing for the move since November, but has not had a reply from the Exchange committee responsible for classification. Brian Staples, Amey's chief \$210: "11 15 one of 11 inevitable next steps for the

Amey has moved away from dependence on construction to focus on outsourced work as diverse as managing buildings and running organisations* in-formation technology help-desks. Mr Staples said: "This year, 90 per cent of our earnines are from support services rather than construction." Arney yesierday announced

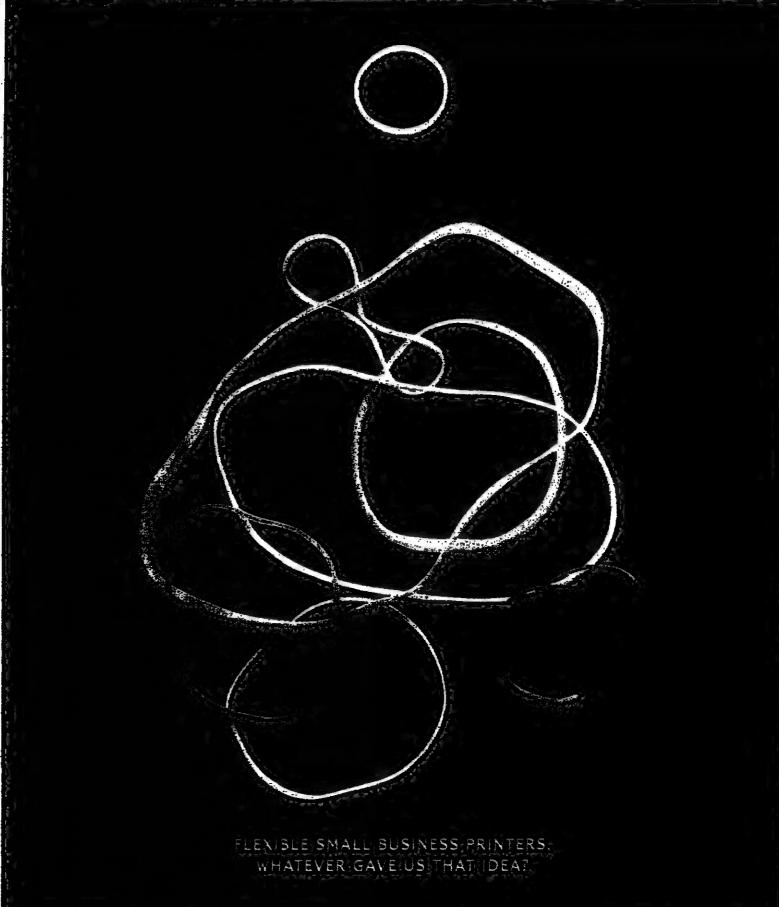
1998 pre-tax profits of £18.7 million, up from £14.6 million in 1997. Sales rose from £389.4 million to £471 million. Construction still accounts

for the bulk of sales, however, contributing £228.5 million in nurnover, but just £2.3 million in profits. The company said that this was still "way short" of an acceptable profit margin.

pected the identity to be announced, in the next few weeks, of Amey's partners in a bid to manage part of the London Underground infrastructure. He was not yet able to say

how much the recent failed bid for Servisair would cost. Earnings per share rose 35 per cent to 42.02p (3L11p). A 9p

final dividend makes 13.5p, up 23 per cent. The shares rose 42½p to 632½p.





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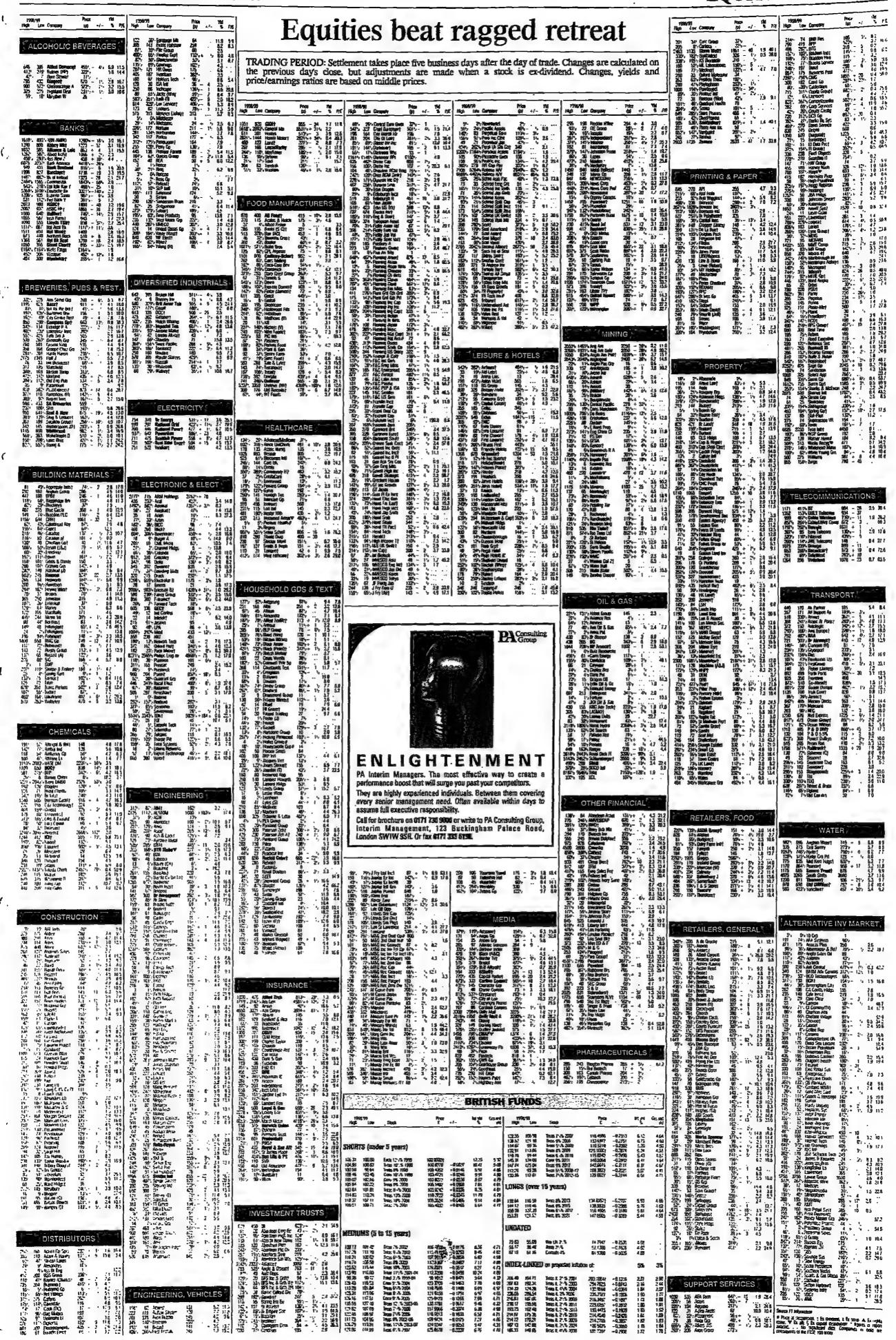
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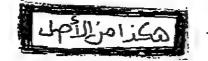
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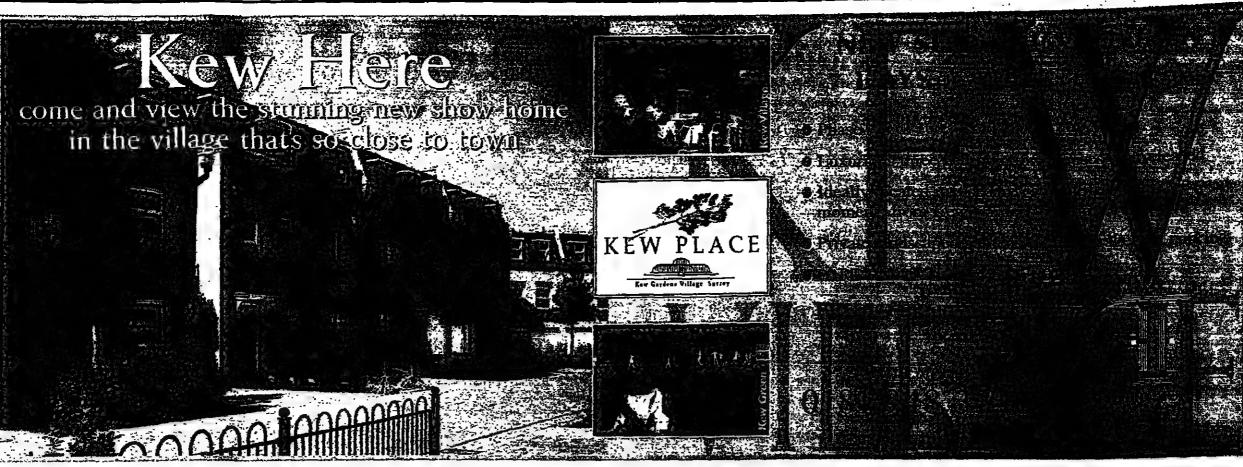
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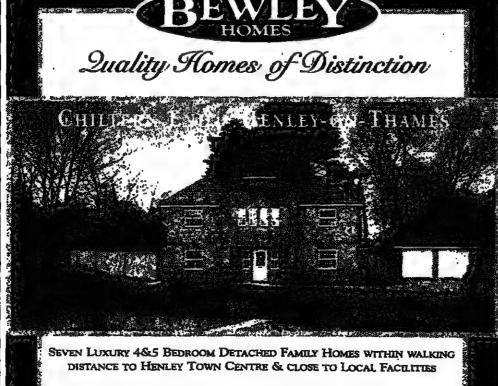
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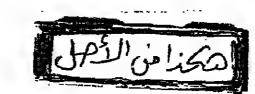
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Why builders must do better

Rachel Kelly on new rules to stop cowboy builders from taking you for a ride

owboy boulders beware. In a crackoutiders down on rogue workers, a government task force has recommended cash compensation to home-owners who have suffered at heir hands.

Other recommendations that have just landed on the desk of Nick Raynsford, the junior Environment Minister, include a national helpline giving details of firms with a "quality mark" and a cut in VAT on maintenance and repair, which was ignored in the Budget.

The quality mark would be backed by warranties with a minimum level of £100, which would cover homeowners against the failure of major renair work or extensions. There tract for small works, and a national publicity campaign for a quality mark and testing of staff for competence.

The suggestions are the culmination of nearly a year's work by a task force beared by Tony Merricks, the general manager of Balfour Beauty's specialist contracting business. The ideas are expected to-be put out for consultation, followed by a six-month study before the system is intro-

duced in summer next year. The proposal that has met most government resistance is the plan to cut VAT on repairs and maintenance. One of the classic routes of the disreputable builder is to offer work at a

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VAT, Reform would reduce the price differential between honest firms and the tax-evading cowboys.

The report says: "Although it is understood that a reduction in the rate at which it is applied would be difficult given European Union regulations, it is considered that lowering the threshold would in itself be of benefit in creating a more level playing field." Less controversial is the

quality mark idea; a scheme floated last April by Mr Rayns. ford. Contractors would get the mark after being assessed by an accreditation body that could be run by an existing trade association. Industry bodies wishing to provide such accreditation might have to pay about £30,000 to deal with the cost of complaints. This in turn would mean higher fees from firms wishing to subscribe.

There will be greater protection, too, for new homeowners from next month. The National House Building Council is seeking to restore a feputation. tarnished by accusations that it is too heavily weighted in favour of housebuilders.
John Callcutt, the chief exec-

utive of Britain's fourteenth largest housebuilder. Crest Nicholson, called on the NHBC last month to gublish league tables of housebuilders so that buyers can see which companies perform best. The NHBC is naturally nervous of printing such information. while its main funding comes



Cowboy builders are not a modern phenomenon, as Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy prove in The Finishing Touch, 1928

from builders themselves. But it has announced plans to extend its cover for new homeowners to include the cost of making good contaminated land on sites registered with the NHBC after April 1.

Ask neighbours if they have had good experiences

Ask builders for references and names of satisfied

Ask for the work to be covered by an insurance-backed

warranty such as the Federation of Masterbuilders'
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clean-up notice is served under the Environment Act, expected this July." Such cover might seem unimportant, but in a climate

tion if and where a statutory

of growing environmental and Jane Chapman, from the NHBC, says: "New homepolitical pressure to develop more brownfield land, such owners of NHBC-registered protection is crucial. Furtherhouses will benefit from protecmore, from the autumn, the

NHBC is introducing a revised inspection service which will allow its inspectors to increase the number of visits where they identify a potentially difficult site. Both sets of proposals to

whether working on old properties or new, still rely on selfregulation.
That was Mr Raynsford's implicit message in appointing Mr Merricks to run his task force and leaving the

ostracise crooks and rogues,

NHBC to improve its act. The building industry is naturally keen to emphasise that chariatans are in the minority. Ian Davis, the director-general of the Federation of Master Builders, says: "The cowboy element damages the reputa-tion of the building industry, but in reality this group is very

But trading standards officers receive about 100,000 complaints a year against builders, dwarfing those they receive about second-hand car dealers. Time will tell whether the building trade can clean up its own act. In Australia, the message

who dated Jane Asher until 1968, also lived there and also wrote We Can Work it Out: Here, There and Everywhere, and And I Love Her. The four-bedroom house is for rent through Egerton's Marylebone office for £2,000 a week. THE Old Rectory in Old near Northampton is for sale. Robert Tourson lived there when he was made chaplain to King James I.

THE Wimpole Street house where Paul McCartney wrote I Want to Hold Your Hand is available to

rent. In the Sixties the house was leased by the Asher family, McCartney,

Dean of Westminster and Bishop of Salisbury. Robert Tourson is remembered among other things for preventing ladies in yellow ruffs or in "mannish attire" from entering the abbey when he was Dean of Westminster. More memorably he was instructed to be alongside Sir Walter Raleigh when he was in prison and also at his death. The house is for sale through Bidwells North-ampton for £650,000,

■ THE Sandridge Barton

estate on the banks of the

River Dart in South Devon is for sale. This was the birthplace of John Davis, the Tudor Arctic explorer who sailed with his party from Dartmouth on June 7. 1575 in two small ships, the Sunshine and the Moonshine, and discovered the Davis Strait, the passage be-tween Baffin Island in Canada and Greenland. The English were convinced that if you could go around North America you could get to China by a shorter route. He made three trips in all but the Spanish Armada in 1588 interrupted the explorations of not only Davis but also his friends Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh. The house is for sale through Knight Frank's Exeter office for £3 million.

A HOUSE in Ibiza designed by the musician Mike Oldfield is for sale. The composer of Tubular Bells designed "Atlantis" as a 3D model on his computer and an architect then translated his ideas into reality. Included in the



£2.2 million asking price is a 1987 Mercedes C-class saloon, a Jeep Wrangler and a Sunseeker Tomahawk 43 powerboat. Hamptons International is the agent selling the house.

THE historic 383-acre estate of St Osyth Priory in Essex is for sale for £1.7 million, down from £2.3 million last year. In 1954 the priory was bought by Som-erset de Chair, the soldier, author and Member of Parliament. Mr de Chair had two passions in his life -women and property. He was married four times and had previously owned Chilham Castle in Kent and Tre-rice Manor in Cornwall. Bidwells is selling the estate. There are opportunities to buy individual properties on the estate as private dwellings.

A HOUSE on the Earl of Shelburne's estate at Bowood House near Caine, Wiltshire, is for rent. The Earl of Shelburne is a friend of the Prince of Wales. The grounds at Bowood were landscaped by "Capability" Brown, Solfi Searl, of Knight Frank, says: "The breathtaking beauty of both house and location can only be described as unique. Rarely does a property of such tranquillity and enchanting surroundings come to the market." The house is available for £1,600 a month through Knight Frank's Cirencester

■ THE Grove at Sonning. Berkshire, is for sale. The 17th-century Grade II listed house is rumoured to have once been the home of Eisenhower's mistress, Kay Summersby. Grove End. an addition to the house, is also for sale. It was built as a haven for refugees of the French Revolution and has since become a separate home. FPD Savills is selling the Grove for £750,000 and Grove End for

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tion at least for a couple of years. Builders — and charlatans - have one last chance.

competence.

can work. Draconian meas-

ures in the state of Victoria

have cut the failure rate of new

installations by 80 per cent on

the previous year. Home-owners, for example, must col-

lect a certificate of compliance

from a licensed plumber on

ly tough measures, outlined by

Building, the trade magazine,

include compulsory registra-

tion for builders. It would be il-

legal for builders to carry out

domestic work unless they

were registered, and to

become registered they would

have to demonstrate technical

construction "tsar", along the

lines of the water industry reg-

ulator, who can resolve dis-

putes and strike builders off

the register. Mr Raynsford is

expected to favour self-regula-

A second suggestion is for a

ltimately, it may be that only regulation

will prove successful in Britain. Real-

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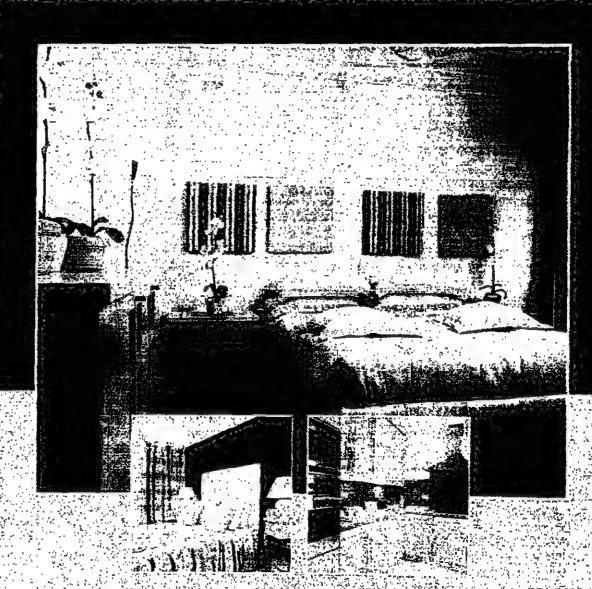


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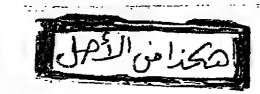
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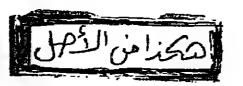
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THE Times Free Books for Schools offer is being extended by a month after huge demand from the 32,200 schools registered with the scheme.

Saving tokens to exchange for books from the 164 titles available has become something of a national pastime, which will now continue until the end of April.

Letters to The Times have told of well-dressed gentlemen raiding litter bins at dawn and children forced into scaveng-Last week George Mudie, the junior Education Minister, was identified as the mystery purloiner of tokens at the House of Commons.

This Free Books for Schools mania is paying off - 25 mil-lion tokens have been redeemed since the scheme started in January, bringing 145,000 new books into class-

The West Midlands is the area with the largest number tokens redeemed -2,306,487 - providing the region with 12,925 new books. Wednesbury Oak Primary in Tipton, West Midlands, has the accolade of having redeemed the most tokens so far:

The ten most popular books reveal the dominance of primary schools as the most ardent token collectors. Blitz, Robert Westall's collection of Second list, with almost 5,000 orders.

TOP CHOICES

3 Bears in the Webt, by Standard Jan Berenstein 4,249 4 Catherine and the Lice, by Clare Janet 4,249 cehaby, by Henrietta

Michael Morpurgo - 3,397 S The Butterfly Lieu, by Michael Morpurgo - 3,314 9 Our Field, by Berlie Doherty and Robin Bell Corfield - 3,136 10 Micky and the Twins: The Lost Rabbit, by Yony Bradman and Susan Winter

Quentin Blake's Mrs Armit-age on Wheels and Bears in the Night, by Stan and Jan Be-

renstain, are not far behind. Clare Jarret's first book, Catherine and the Lion; came in at fourth place with 4,120 orders. Mrs Jarret wrote the book for her eldest daughter. Catherine, now aged nine, who is the story's eponymous heroine. Her next work, Dancing Maddy, will star Cather-ine's seven-year-old sister. Both girls have been feverishly collecting tokens and are proud to have Catherine's book in the Times top ten.

extreme, having had more than 50 children's books pub-Birtz, by Robert Westall lished. The author has the distinction of having two titles in top ten and is a staunch sup-porter of the Free Books for Schools initiative.

What is wonderful about this scheme is that it has brought good-quality children's books to schools that otherwise would not have had access to them," Morpurgo

What we need in this country is a culture where libraries are seen as an integral part of every school - not an optional extra should a school be able to afford it."

Morpurgo admires the diversity of interests represented in the scheme. We have a problem in Britain that reading is thought of as an activity for a certain kind of person. I like the idea that these tokens are found both on packets of crisps and in The Times - it helps to dispel these preconcep-tions. Schools should be flooded with books, so that children

can get to grips with the feel,

taste and the smell of

them. It is their birthright and their heritage."
It is this shared conviction that has led The Times to extend the Free Books for Schools campaign, a fitting en-terprise to end a century in which literacy has at last be-come the right of all the na-

Sign up for a prize with Chris Evans

THE broadcaster Chris Evans gave his enthusiastic backing esterday to the relaunch of The Times Free Books for Schools

Evans has signed three books that will be awarded to schools as prizes. The Amber Cat, by Hilary McKay, Spacebaby, by Henrietta Branford, and Fox in Socks, by Dr Seuss, all bearing Evans's words of support, will be awarded in two weeks' time to the schools with the most amusing or imaginative

token-collecting strategies These should be summarised in fewer than 50 words on the back of a postcard. Evans is unequivocal about

the merits of the campaign. "The Times scheme is a fantastic klea - schools must keep up their collecting. "I did not read much as a

child, so I am having to catch up

now, and believe me it is hard

work. If we read more books, the world would be a wittier and happier place." books should be sent to Hannah Betts, The Times, Times House, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive no later than

Friday, April 9. Entries must include contact name and telephone number. TOP SCHOOLS

Tipton, West Midlands (214) West Midlands (170) St Mark's Primary, Brierly Hill, West Midlands (156)

HIII View Primary, Banbury, Oxfordshire (156) Richmond Primary, Hinckley, Leicestershire (144) White Woman Lane Middle

Norwich (144) Brookhill Leys Junior, Nottingham (127) Park End Primary, Middles

brough (122) West Primary, Paisley (120) Courthouse Green Primary, Coventry (120) <

* Figures show number of books received so far

www.com a raid cores on the professors to see the second of the cores.

Lighter role for Lady Macbeth

LADY MACBETH may not be everyone's idea of a childfriendly philanthropist. But Sally Dexter, who has been acclaimed for her performance of the role in the West End of London, is proud of the play's status as the most popular of The Times Free

Books for Schools Shake-

The Queen's Theatre production has proved so popular with youngsters that it has had to ration the number of school parties allowed for every performance. Dexter is thus in a privileged position to judge the play's appeal with

the nation's youth. "It's short," she jokes, before adding: "The play shows something extreme, but recognisable. It plugs into a deep void of pessimism that we all possess, but is ultimately a cathartic experience that provokes a great deal of compassion." Dexter has a contagious en-

thusiasm for literature. "We really can learn through books. They enrich all our lives and offer a fantastic way to connect us all. I certainly give a huge thumbs up to The Times scheme - thumbs, fingers, feet, everything." Her conviction that young

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people should be introduced to Shakespeare is that of a convert. "As a child, I thought Shakespeare was a load of old rubbish," she admitted. "I resented Shakespeare because everyone said he was wonderful and I could not even understand him."

The turning point came when she worked with Sir Peter Hall, who passed on an appreciation of the great beauty and logic of Shakespearean verse. The language can seem like a barrier but, in fact, it is natural for us to speak in verse," she said. "Shakespeare used it because it caught the ear - it provided a hook to make people listen. And the more you respect the structure of the language, the more it re-

veals things to you. "We need to show children that Shakespeare is not just about exams. This need not even be through getting them acting; perhaps we could gain their interest by getting them experimenting with their own writing. Most of all we need to convince them that it is fun: Shakespeare's plays are play-ing with language, above all."



Sally Dexter: won over by Shakespeare's verse

MORE TIME, MORE BOOKS — AND HOW TO GET THEM

They will also be available during April in *The Stin, News of the* World. Sunday Times and on selected packets of Welkers snack-

and with the mittable can continue to build their collections ins. There remains no limit on the number of books schools arm from the list of over 150 titles and the closing date for

in 28 days of being received.

If readers do not have a school to collect for, they can ring the Free Books for Schools helpline on 0845 6040312 (calls are charged at local rate) to find out the location of the nearest partici-

Braille titles snapped up

Michael Morpurgo: occu-

By George Pendle

BLIND children across the country are seizing their chance to gain braille books

Braille books cost up to ten times as much as printed books and often wear out after only a few readings as the raised dots are pushed back into the paper, so the chance to get them for as few as 100 tokens in the Free Books for

Schools scheme has been

warmly welcomed.

Kevin Tansley, the head teacher at the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh, said that most of the school's 118 pupils used braille, despite the advent of computer programs that can enlarge text for partially sighted people or even read it to them.

"The equipment is bulky and expensive and does not offer the independence needed to read for pleasure - you can not take a scanner to bed with you," he said.

Sue Bennett, the head of braille studies at the Joseph Clark School for the Visually Impaired in London, is equally pleased with the scheme. We have collected 8,000 tokens so far," she said. "It is very difficult to get hold of braille books otherwise. For instance, a Roald Dahl book would cost us £60."







THE





Oscar succumbs to overexposure

guard in the Gielgud loyer, the grim-faced Cerberus hired to expel or devour interlopers, was sporting a green carnation on the first night of Moisés Kaufman's play. Could there be a better illustration of changing attitudes towards his subject, which is Oscar Wilde? A hundred, fifty, thirty years ago he could be categorised as subversive. Now his plays are endlessly revived, and he is lionised by those who would once have been his foes. Wilde is respected going on respectable.

Yet here's a paradox to worry those who think the function of drama is to ruffle conventional feathers. The less controversial Wilde has become, the more we have seen him. Oscar after Oscar has recently sauntered across our stages and screens: Simon Callow. Stephen Fry. Liam Neeson. Corin Redgrave and the assorted actors who impersonated him in Tom Stoppard's play about Housman, The invention of Love. Myself. I must admit to wondering if, fascinating though he is, he has not fascinated us long enough. Does Gross Indecency add enough to the Wilde files to justify bringing it all the way from New York?

Well, any Candide out there who still needs to discover what happened to Wilde in the killer year of 1895 will undoubtedly find the play informative. For others, there are two reasons for considering a trip to the Gielgud. Kaufman's main suggestion, which is that the establishment attack on Wilde was more on his literary works and artistic credo than on his personal morality, is certainly unusual. So is his play's style, which threatens to become aridly Brechtian and yet. let us concede this, introduces a degree of complexity without



losing dramatic momentum. In the orchestra pit, just below Michael Pennington's Wilde and his friends and enemies, sit actors in Pooterish suits. They are, rather literally, foomotes. They switch positions and roles to become Shaw and Frank Harris, dancing prostitutes, rentboys in tatty underwear, even Queen Victoria; but much of the time they give us the scholarly references when Wilde's trials are interrupted by extracts from his writings or by the opinions of those who knew him. They allow us to see the man and his era from different angles; they tell the story of his destruction; they help Kaufman to build up a case that would, however, be more impressive if Wilde's aesthetic philosophy did not come across nowadays as little more than a dated, precious attack on Victorian puri-

ern prof debates the origins of the concept of "homosexuality", and the evening must sound a bit academic. With James Aubrey's mad, mottled Queensberry hoarsely barking, Clive Francis exuding whiskery sympathy as defence counsel Clarke, and Pennington's admirably cool, humorous, dignified, debonaire Wilde visibly yellowing and crumpling as cataclysm nears. that danger is successfully avoided. But I still left the theatre feeling that I had learnt little new. For all the play's strengths, I felt Oscared out.

> BENEDICT **NIGHTINGALE**



Fascinating though he is, has he not fascinated us long enough? Michael Pennington adds yet another Oscar Wilde to an already long list in Moises Kaufman's Gross Indecency

Slightly pregnant

cience, as assorted media boffins regularly and ingeniously insist. may well be the new art. But can it make good theatre? On the few occasions when old and new shack up together. they invariably prove uneasy bedfellows. The devil, obviously, is in the detail. Rare, too, is the person who can straddle both forms. More's the pity: finding ways for art to unravel the abstruse for the uninitiated is surely an important and certainly an under-exploited challenge.

Carl Djerassi's thoughtful new play makes some amends. An Immaculate Misconception is a fictional account of the first successful fertilisation of a human egg by the direct injection of a single sperm, a technique which has become the principal treatment for male intertility. It New End, NW3

does not shirk the science, but sneaks it out in easily ingestible gobbets. Projected films of actual fertilisations help to bring the process to life - and are enthralling enough to all but overshadow the rest of the

Djerassi, who has adapted his own novel, certainly writes with authority: he was the man who invented the Pill. But his narrative focuses mainly on the human drama behind the discovery. Reproductive biologist Melanie, the imaginary pioneer, is a childless thirtysomething widow involved with a functionally infertile married man. She se-

New Productio

cretly makes away with some of his sperm and injects it into her own eggs, to the indignaleague, Felix. Seeing the prospect of his future fame wriggling away with the uncooperative sperm. Felix adds his own - highly personal - contribution to the mix.

Dierassi mostly maintains interest in his characters' anxieties and affections, while at the same time raising through them a host of intriguing issues about medical ethics, parenthood and the rights of the child. He is much helped by Gordon Greenberg's assured direction and Jonathan Fansom's design, which smoothly sets up all gradations from the intimate to the clinical.

There are two strong and well-judged performances from Susannah Fellows as Melanie and Stephen Greif as Michael Matus, although convincingly slimy as Felix, gabbles some of his lines, and his character's motives are underdefined.

The script is at fault here, it also lands Toni Palmer with a rather superfluous part as a counsellor from a sperm bank, although she gets the right mix of the motherly and the slightly seedy. That aside, this is a welcome and successful experiment.

NIGEL CLIFF

five people living along the Finchley Road, Snake is not something they see slithering towards Swiss Cottage but how Rona Munro, the author, sees their stories — a snake with its tail in its mouth: no certain begin-

ning, no evident end. The play can begin at any one of its four scenes, after which the others follow in sequence; thus each of the four scenes is sometimes the last to be performed, sending the audience away in a different mood. The performance I saw began with two discontented women on the balcony of their tower block and a neighbour,

obsessed with one of them.

we came in

who leaves the tooth he has lost in a fight with her man as a love token outside her door. In scene two he is pursuing the bird that mistook the tooth

for a breadcrumb and swal-

lowed it. The troubled son of the woman he loves bashes him with a baseball bat. Next the boy is seen in the local police station, refusing to speak to his mother until a minicab driver advises her to alter her attitude.

· Finally the driver calls at a club to take the other woman back to her flat, and we learn why her eyes were gummed to-



Terence Maynard and Lindsey Coulson in one of the scenes from the circular Snake

gether at the start of the tower block scene. We are back This is where where we started, and so presumably are the characters, although if the play had begun at this club scene and ended with mother and son together. the mood might have been

> siderable, and the alternative patterns exercise the mind afterwards, hope, entrapment. violence and farce being the choices these characters face. What one viewing cannot tell is whether the performances change for a different sequence, and raise doubts about the likelihood of successfully playing against the text. Until she placed salted liver over her closed eyes (a magic

trick, apparently) I could not relate Lindsey Coulson's assured Ruby to the moaning witterer of the tower block scene. There is a firmer coherence to the other four, but always a sense that 'the characters are being made to jump to the author's bidding and make her points about motherhood, fatherhood and the like. Although the direction by Gem-

ma Bodinetz is packed with en-

ergetic details, it does not dis-

pel this awkward artificiality. That said, Terence Maynard delivers his speech on frustrated parenthood with a fierce intensity, and Fiona Bell's peaky Chelle speaks of the boringness of poverty and, elsewhere, of a mother's bond to her child with a conviction that tears at the heart.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Starred honours

UNIVERSITY College Opera might have thought that even a group as ambitious as this one might have quailed before Tchaikovsky's Mazeppa, a great, sprawling epic as difficult to play as it is to sing. Thank heavens they didn't: the result was one of the most exciting university productions

within living memory. The work itself grows more impressive with each hearing, technically faultless in unfolding a story through music, and unfolding it with exceptional clarity: for all the brilliance of the orchestration, you can always hear the words. Torture, betrayal, a rattling good public execution, doomed erotic obsession ... it could almost be by Puccini. But for all the violence on the surface what strikes home is the stream of unforced, tender lyricism. The final scene, with the crazed heroine singing the sweetest of

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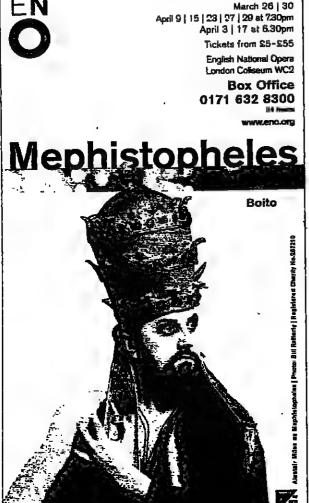
lullabies over her dying lover, is one of the most shattering in 19th-century opera.

In the cold light of day, the writing is probably beyond the UCL Orchestra, but the spirit and commitment of their playing under David Drummond

swept such details aside.
The producer-designer Netia Davan Wetton staged the action in a non-specific, vaguely constructivist 20th century, although Mazeppa sported Trotsky's beard and Stalin's moustache. Her handling of a lusty cherus of more than 80 on the Bloomsbury's small

stage was impressive. Andrew Slater (Kochubey) led the cast in enunciating the anonymous translation with meaningful clarity; this wonderfully written role of the out-raged father nearly upstages that of the eponymous Ukrainian traitor-tyrant, as whom Peter Snipp was audibly struggling with an unannounced indisposition. The mettlesome soprano Rachel Nicholls was tested by some of Maria's big numbers, but rightly saved her best for the closing Jullahyduet, and the same was true of Julian Jensen as her tenor lover. Miriam Murphy was spiendidly firm and spirited as her haughty mother.

RODNEY MILNES



GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

REBECCA CLARKE

Age: 24.

Profession: Actress.

Don't act your age: Last December she collected excellent reviews as nine-year-old Lucy Pevensie in the RSC's The Lion. the Witch and the Wardrobe, which has just transferred to the Barbican from Stratford.

How do you go about playing a mid-dle-class 1930s child? "You put on a clipped. Hayley Mills-type voice. avoid being twee, and concentrate on the honesty and strength that C.S. Lewis gave Lucy. We did a lot of improvisation around a child's fear of being taken away from their parents, or

Animal instincts: Along with Emily

Pithon, who plays Susan, the elder Pevensie daughter, she went on a research trip to London Zoo. "We wanted to watch how children interact with animals, as that's a big element of what we do in the play. Kids have tremendous energy and are quite fear-less around wild animals. Their instinct is to touch them."

Suddenly everybody's a critic "It's amazing how excited children become during the show and I've had some great letters from them. But a few of them make comments like: 'I think the lighting in that scene near the end should have been different."

Forever young? Her biggest TV part to date came in 1997, playing "a rebellious 17-year-old" who causes trouble for her uncle, a vicar, in the BBCl chil-

dren's sitcom Out of Tune. "I can't help looking very young. I still occa-sionally get asked for ID in pubs, and the day I'm cast as a character my own age I'll be cheering."

Who turned her on to acting? "Chris Walker, my amazing drama teacher at secondary school in Shropshire. She was like a second mother and a best friend. We're still very close."

Troubled training: "I had very mixed experiences at the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts in London. I considered leaving the course early, after the second year. But I forced myself to knuckle down and make the most of

Stick to what you know: "I haven't done much TV, or any film, but I'm pretty sure that I il always get the biggest buzz from theatre. I just prefer the process: you have time to go into things deeply and improve during the run of a play. With TV, you have to do everything much more quickly."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL



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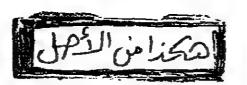
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GALLERIES: Richard Cork admires two contemporary artists with designs on the human form Power of

a snake charmer

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ometimes, through an in-spired union between a gal-iery and the work displayed there, art can be transformed by the location it inhabits. Just such an event can now be witnessed at the Tate Liverpool, where Richard Deacon is holding his most substantial British exhibition for a decade. Staged on the top loor, a recently opened space offering lofty and airy surroundings, this outstanding survey concentrates largely on unshown sculp

I cannot imagine à more sympathetic setting. Large warehouse windows offer beguiling views on to the docks, and provide an ideal context for understanding Deacon's approach: For he operates as a fabrica-tor rather than a modeller or carver, constructing his sculpture with vigour akin to the shipbuilders who once supplied Liverpool with seaworthy vessels.

The show starts quietly, admitting us to a cen-tral chamber lined with ribbed plastic sheets. Hanging from the ceilstructures ing, they contain a mass of wriggling, intestinal enough to explain why Deacon calls the series The Interior's Absoys More Difficult. He has engineer's been preoccupied with the body ever since his precision? spectacular emergence in the early 1980s. But Deacon never approach-

es the human form in a literal way. Even at their most swollen and organic, his three-dimensional structures are made with a precision: worthy of an engineer.

They also after in unpredictable ways as we walk around them: On one side, Almost Beautiful presents a laminated wood surface, with spattered give adding an all-over. painterly texture. Move to the other side of the sculpture, though, and solidity gives way to transparent lightness: a skin of welded polycarbonate billows outwards, playfully contradicting the assertion of substance elsewhere.

ed by the wealth of materials available to the contemporary sculptor. In the latest additions to his sequence of small works called Art for Other People, he moves with supple, adroit assurance from oak to polyester resin, or from glass fibre to cardboard. More often than not heterogeneous materials find themselves yoked together in a single, surprising object: one piece is made from steamed beech and aluminium, while another combines nylon net, linen thread and MDF. But we never feel that these umpredictable combinations are forced or arbitrary. They are all informed by

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a feeling of sensuous engagement, and Deacon's eye for colour gives them a vivacity that many sculp-

tors fail to command.

As well as reflecting a voracious involvement with language, his titles always enhance the meaning of the work he produces. New World Order, the name he has chosen for the entire show, nearly encapsu-lates the tension informing all his finest work. The surging optimism conveyed by "new world" is pitched against the uncompromising rigour of "order". Throughout the exh bition, Deacon's proliferating fertility is saved from incontinence by a sense of discipline. Even at his most relaxed and intimate, an underlying austerity is still detectable.

Deacon's ability to work on the grand scale becomes spectacularly clear in the final section. Monumental dimensions bring out the most exoberant side of his inventiveness,

> works displayed here add up to a triumphant display of sculptural But there is nothing tiresomely muscle-flexing about them. After unfolds in a rollercoaster series of writhing wooden loops. Un-dulating across the floor like a restless snake, it is nevertheless stiffened. by a rigid metal spine running through the centre. The tension be-

tween the two elements

and the three large

is as rewarding as the conflict between freedom and contamment in Deacon's great outdoor sculpture on the Warwick Universi-

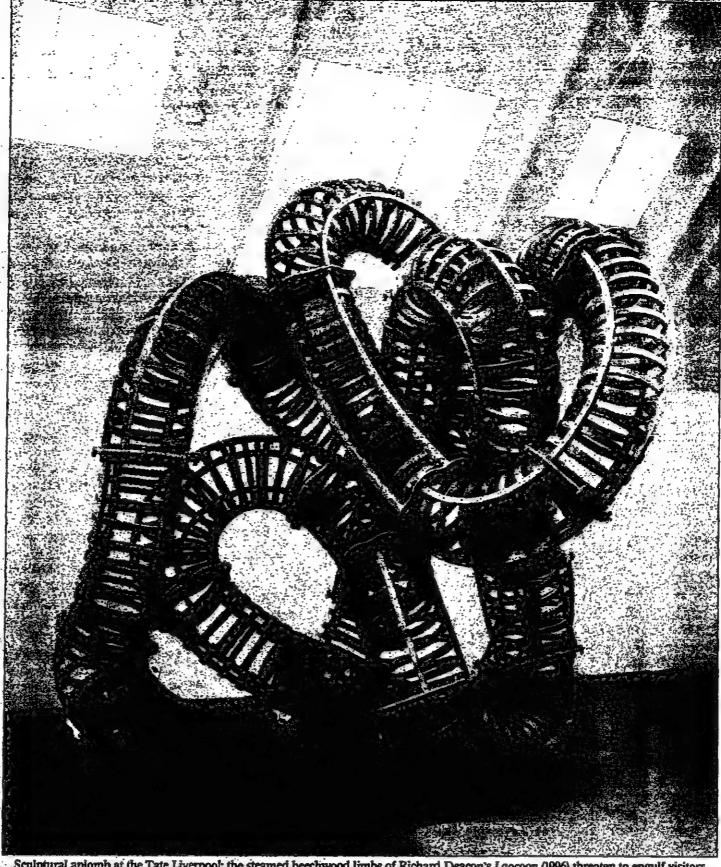
ly campus.

At first, What Could Make Me.
Feel This Way (A) seems even more expansive and abandoned. The coils of bent wood, all gived and screwed with typical exactitude: have such an explosive impact that they threaten to burst out of the room confining them. The last time I saw this exhibitaring sculpture, at Deacon's Hanover exhibition six years ago, it was isolated in the hangar-like vastness of the Orangerie. Here, by contrast, it can be cirhaps that is why I became more aware of its internal order this time. Perhaps, too, it seemed calmer in comparison with the astonish-

dominating the largest space. Made in 1996, this eruptive work provides the show with a superb climax. Twisting and stretching its steamed beechwood limb; towards the skylights high above. Laocoon manages to be both mysterious and open. Standing near it, and gazing deep into its menacing complexities. I felt that the sculpture might easily engulf me like the serpent

ing, convoluted flourish of Lao-

coon, a truly prodigious sculpture



Sculptural apiomb at the Tate Liverpool: the steamed beechwood limbs of Richard Deacon's Laocoon (1996) threaten to engulf visitors

crushing its victims in the classical Laocoon carving. At the same time, though: Deacon's expansive brio is of a 50-year-old sculptor whose spirit is as irrepressible as ever.

far darker vision runs through Tony Bevan's exing Abbot Hall Art Gallery in Kendal. Only two years younger than Deacon, Bevan emerged as an impressive young painter soon after leaving the Slade School of Art in 1976. The limpidly installed show at Kendal concentrates on recent work, but his preoccupations remain constant. The human figure is Bevan's theme, often marooned in a brooding blackness.

Many canvases focus on the head alone, and it stretches upwards in one of the most powerful NEW NETE. A NETC gated neck is exposed, scored with harsh lines suggestive of a surgical wound. But they could equally well signify a psychic injury, for the straining man appears to be afflicted by inner torment.

Bevan belongs to a distinguished British tradition in postwar figurative painting. His lonely, anguished people have much in com-mon with Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud and Frank Averbach. But he is far from derivative. A strong sense of a personal world is created in this relentless exhibition. Unsentimental to the point of bleakness. he never lets us forget the existential stress undergone by the people inhabiting his large canvases. Charcoal is often deployed alongside pignt in these dignly ithear works and on the most recent paintings it projects in angular, glistening lumps. The figures occupying these pictures seem stranded and alienated within an impersonal, metropolitan vastness. Mostly, they stay inside the self-imposed limits of a bare room. In the only paintings that stray beyond these limits, he traps us in corridors receding re-

morselessly into the distance. Against all the odds, though, this exhibition is far from depressing. Bevan works with admirable conciseness and assurance, never overloading his images with an excess of anxiety. Bevan knows how to con-

more commandingly than in a large painting called Horizon. Red digment extends in a thick hand across the bottom of the canvas. It looks like a sea of blood, and seems to threaten the two macabre heads floating above. Glazed in expression and almost sightless, they flounder there like swimmers in danger of drowning. But despite everything inflicted on them in Bev-an's turbulent art, they remain resilient. Over and above his exploration of suffering and loneliness, he ends up affirming the fundamental will to survive.

vey ambiguity of feeling, nowhere

Richard Deacon is at the Tute Liverpool (0151-709 0507) until May 16: Tony Bevon is at Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal (01539 722464) until April 11

AROUND THE GALLERIES

ABOUT 25 years ago a teenaged boy accosted Bob Marley outside a London club. The reggae singer was almost unknown in Britain at the time, but the 14-year-old knew his music because his West Indian parents played it at home. 'Hey, you talk funny," he said to Marley. "So do you," the musician replied. He had never come across a black person with a London accent before.

A friendship was born of this encounter and it is this which shows most clearly in Dennis Morris's current photographic show. From that day, when he bunked off school to accompany Marley on tour, through the 1970s when the Wailers returned to Britain, this time as stars, Morris has toured with the band. His photographs have all the sharpness and spontaneity of reportage. But most salient is the sense of intimacy which comes across, the relaxed humour and gentle ease of friends.

Proud Galleries, 5 Buckingham St, WC2 (0171-839 49-12) until April 30

C Ken Currie translates raw and painful realities into ethereal images that haunt the consciousness. A photograph of a fatally wounded child inspires a series of spectral portraits articulating the grief of the par-ent. Bruised faces and swaddled forms float across canvases. Mouths stretch open, and eye-sockets bleed darkness. Decrepit old men crouching over their fags in a hostel inspire frail figure studies. A series of three paintings portray. in almost forensic detail, the damage which can be done to a face. There is an eerie atmosphere to this show, the calm insistence of a pain which refuses to dissolve into consolation. Boukamel Contemporary Art, 9 Cork St, WI (0171-734 6444) until April 24

☐ FROM an archive of hundreds of thousands of photographs by Terence Donovan. The Eye That Never Sleeps extracts a manageable selection of those considered to represent the changing face of London over the past four decades. When this is not the face of fame - of arrists, actors, authors and aristos — it is, on the whole, a smart, streetwise, fashionable face. It knows it is being watched through the photographer's lens and composes itself appropriately.

But beyond the immaculate make-up, the tailored poses, മന മ്പളര of self-awareness gleams. Is Donovan mocking the dark and deadly serious women in silly hats? At the beginning of the show, alongside a portrait of the artist, a row of gap-toothed East End kids are shown doubled up with giggles at the sight of the mannequin who poses behind them, tottering on her kitten heels. Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2 (0171-600 3699) until Aug I

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

Politely perfect

hirty years ago, Mo-zarr's C major Piano Concerto, K467, usually arrived saddled with the tag Elvira Madigan, after a oncerevered Swedish film that spooned its slow movement over a horrible soft-focus romance. In 1980 Denis Matthews wrote on an LP sleeve-note: "The slow movement has acquired an independent fame," but sniffily declined to give details. Now it is as though the film never existed. No mention anywhere.

Only Mozart remains; and with Murray Perahia directing the Academy of St Martinin-the-Fields from the keyboard, that is all anyone should need.

The Academy's muted violins and plucked double basses were born to play that movement's opening, and they spun out its cantabile line with gos-samer delicacy. Then Perahia stole in, twinkling like a star in the night sky. Both here and in the B-flat concerto, K595, he rightly made the tender slow movements the performances' focal point: this was, after all, a concert in Sir William Glock's Mozart series "From the Heart". And he made the most - indeed almost too



much - of the minor key passages elsewhere, dark clouds invading sunshine. Perhaps Perahia was simply relishing a chance to play unhampered. without the need to stand up, conduct the players circled around, and flip his tailcoat back over the stool in time for the piano's next entry. What of the music's other

phases? The last movement of K467 was a whirlwind of vigour and joy, fingers dancing up the keyboard. The same spirit radiated through K595's finale, with its rondo theme fit for a nursery rhyme. Throughout, the orchestra was in nearperfect accord (woodwinds especially shone): though the platform arrangement left the timpanist marooned in his contributions to K467, especially the allegro maestoso.

For all these delights, you can have too much polite perfection in a single concert. How pleasant, then, to wel-



Keyboard conductor: pianist Murray Perahia

come the flawed Vesperae Solennes de Confessore, K339, performed with the Academy Chorus under its conductor Laszlo Heltay.

Unlike a mass setting, vespers need not aspire to unity: and Mozart's Soleron Vespers are truly higgledy-piggledy pieces, in assorted keys. In a concert performance this can be disconcerting, but the buoyant, clear tone of the Academy Choir brought its own unity. The soprano inger Dam-Jensen proved lackustre in the Vespers' hit number. Laudate Dominum; and the three other soloists were little more than a

ord had got around. The eldest player was just 21; they had already performed halfway

round the world, collected an armful of competition prizes, made their first disc. There was standing room only at Saturday's recital by the young Jerusalem Quartet, founded six years ago and now giving its first full programme at the Wigmore Hall as part of the Young Masters series.

And what a programme it was: from Haydn's Sunrise to Shostakovich's sunset and on, still further, to Beethoven's Op 130 String Quariet with the Grosse Fuge. The sheer imagi-native virtuosity of Haydn's opening of his Quartet Op 76

f one young soloist wants to play Copland's Clarinet Concerto and the other wants to sing Mahler's Lieder eines sahrenden Gesellen there is a problem. How do you integrate those two works into a programme that adds up to a concert? Whatever the answer, it is certainly not to begin with Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture, to stick Mozart's Salzburg Divertimento in D in the middle and to end with

Dvurák's Scherzo Capriccioso. Feeble response to a professional challenge though it was, that programme did at least fulfil its primary function in providing a showcase for the two soloists chosen as the latest beneficiaries of Akzo Nobel's sponsorship GEOFF BROWN of promising young musicians. Work-

Young superstars

theme, with the music taking form almost in spite of itself was equalled by that of the players. Their intensity of listening made an immediate mark and developed into the finest shading and modulating of voices.

Alexander Paviovsky leads with an authority which is never over-bright, over-dominant. Characterising details like the teasing rhythmic push-and-pull they set up in the Menuet, or the supple, barline-dissolving metre of their final dance, Jerusalom Quartet Wigmore Half

emerged as if through spontaneous reactions from second to second.

The players' own Russian roots seemed to draw nourishment from the central Shostakovich Quartet, No 8 in C minor. Op 110. This is the composer composing himself. no less: his own DSCH monodraws the receptive listener into his innermost psyche. The Jerusalem Ouartet, aware of the work's weight, paced themselves carefully. They could, perhaps, have

torn still more savagely at the monogram motif in the molto. But their sharp-eyed, deft-finecred augmentation and diminution of that motif as the work progressed created a crazed half of mirrors in which Shostakovich's name and his very self were refract-

er was apparently deeply moved by an early private performance of the work by the Borodin Quartet: there are signs of a comparable depth of perception here, a burgeoning sense of similarly great things to come already in this young

quartet's playing.
That sense was confirmed by the Beethoven. Yet another visionary opening, understood and recreated as such: a most thoughtfully paced third movement; a wide-eyed Cavatina, still awaiting the gravitas of maturity; and a final Grosse Fuge whose palpable physical struggle only reinforced the spiritual one at its heart.

HILARY FINCH

Slipshod spotlight

ing with David Zinman and the Philharmonia before a big audience in Birmingham Symphony Hall must have been a valuable experience for both of them but particularly perhaps for Guang Yang who, although she won the Cardiff Singer of the World competition two years ago. has more to gain from this kind of exposure. The Swedish clarinettist Martin Fröst is already a highly accomplished concerto soloist.

The Chinese mezzo might now be

wondering why she chose a Mahler cy-

sure in pitch, conscientious in her German pronunciation, she was nonetheless out of place in this particular score. The one worrying aspect of Fröst's performance of Copland's Clarinet

of her bottom register. Remarkably

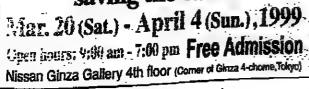
Concerto was his choreography. His tendency to move about as he played brought him perilously close to the violinist behind him who, had she not shrunk further and further away, might well have found him in her lap. If Fröst's performance had been any cle that so clearly exposes the weakness less compelling - above all in its control over line and colour in the first movement and its technical and idiomatic brilliance in the second — the temptation to ask him to look where he

was going might have been irresistible. With a conductor as masterful as Zinman and a need for something like Schubert's Symphony in D minor be-fore the Mahler and, say, a Stravinsky ballet score after the Copland, it was frustrating to hear the Philharmonia pursuing a different agenda in Mendelssohn and Dvorák, attractively though they performed it. As for the Mozart, it was as inexplicable in its presence as they were professional in its execution.

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ARTS

DANCE

Transatlantic letdown

RECOMMENDED TODAY Guide to arts and entertainment complied by Marit Hargie

LONDON

GOS: Jason Orange (ex-Take Thot) and Tom Hayes, with Spike as DJ, star in Jen Kenworth's punk-rave-onarchistic attack on high culture, James Martin Charlton clirects for Friondly Fire.
King's Head (0171-228 1916). Opena tonight, 7 30pm (§)

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF EUROPE: Pong virtuoso Mietha Argerich joins this line collective of European musicians for Chopin's First Plano Conceno, Emmenuel Kri-Berbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

SONG RECITAL: Rising young American bartone Nathan Gurm offers an eventing of Schubert Leeds followed by American eoing by less, Ricrem, Bolcom and Gene Scheer. With Kevin Murphy on the plano Wigmore Hall (0/17)-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm. §

ELSEWHERE

LIVERPOOL: Seattle Symphony conductor Gerard Schwarz leads the Royal Liverpool Orchestra and Chorus in a performance of Eigar's Chorus in a performance of Elgar's powerful The Oncam of Geronfus, Wit soloists Penelope Walker, Artur Davies and Stephen Roberts. Philharmoric Hall (0151-709 3789), Tonight, 7,30pm, (2)

MANCHESTER: Soprano Catherino Bott and her four co-solosts get into 18th-century gear for that autheritic penod feel as they join the Mozart Festival Orchestra and Chorus for an europine candid it perferences.



Jason Orange stars in Gob at the King's Head

onight, 7 30pm (2) NEWCASTLE: Mouth

NewCas LLE: Mount-wesening, French flavours are on eiter as the Northern Sinfonia, under Nicholas Krasmer, performs pieces by Lufty, Ravel, Fauré and Rameu. Also included is the UK premiere of John Crasteries.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Malcolm Storry stars in the title role of Votpone with Guy Henry as his aide, scheming gold out of the footish in Jonson's

NEW WEST END SHOWS

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N GOOD: C.P Taylor's best play in coutric (1 rayors best pary, racing o liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazes. Charles Dance heads a strong cast. Michael Grandage directs. Donmar (0171-369 1732). (3)

☐ TROILUS AND CRESSIDA; Trevor Nurn and John Ceird direct black Trojans and white Greeks, with Pete de Jersey and Sophie Okonedo as

er (0171-452 3000). 🔂 ☐ GROSS INDECENCY: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilder, Michael Pennington plays Wilde, with William Hoyland and Clive Francis as counsel for and agonst, in Moises Kaufman's play. Gleigud (0171-494 5065).

A LOVELY SUNDAY FOR CREVE

□ SNAKE, interesting play by Rona, Munro, snaking round the experiences

ad (0171-722 8301). 🚱 ANIMAL CRACKERS: Ben Keaton, Joe Aless: and Toby Sedgwick play the three mamacs stage version of the Mars Brothers

movie. For addicts only. Lyric (0171-494 5045). SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW: The excellent prime entirst Stava Polunin returns, with new material as well as Piccadilly Theatrn (0171-369 1734). N MACBETH: Rules Sevel and Sally Dexter play the superstitious thane and his mesis in John Crowley's production.

☐ ENEMIES: Isaac Bashevis Singer's story of a Holocaust survivor In New York, troubled by women past and present. First written as a pkry, then a novel, now a pkry again. John Wright diserts Wright directs. Young Vic Studio (0171-928 6363).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

ARLINGTON ROAD (10): Nerve stretching thriter with a magnificent performance by Jeff hbour, Tim Robbins, is

WAKING NED (FG): It's Lottery Gulove! for a small village in this study insh table about a corpse in charge of a writing lottery tick

SEUL CONTRE TOUS (I STAND ALONE) (18): Brutal, storrach-churryno yane through a French butcher's e Philippe Nahon puts in a onumental performance in Gaspar

A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (15): Will Forroll and Chris Kattan, aka the Butabi brothers, are routinely kneed

SOUTHPAW (15): Gripping documentary about Iroland's first travellet bosing champ, Francis Barrett, who graduated from a carawan site to the Albania Olympics Lum McGrath drects

CURRENT

PATCH ADAMS (12): Robin Williams stars in this abound medical movie about a doctor who wants to cure the world with laughter. Director Tom

PLEASANTVILLE (12): Ingenious spool of American lensity values. Two dysaurictional 1990s Isenagers get sucked into a squeeky-clean 1950s TV soap. Great performances from

BELOVED (15): Oprah Winfrey in Surprisingly powerful as 8 runaway slave haunted by potengeless, lynch mobs, and a dead daughter, Jonath Demme's overlong film fails, howeve to got insade the testiment beauter to get inside the lestering heart of Tool Morrison's Publizer Prize winner.

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A ghitening East of American soldiers have their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War, Terrence Ma artistic masterpieco stars Seari Penn, Jim Caviezel, Ben Chapliri, Nick Note. YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG) Build-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet I by Nora Ephron.

A year of good grace

MUSIC:

Martin Neary tells Richard **Morrison** about

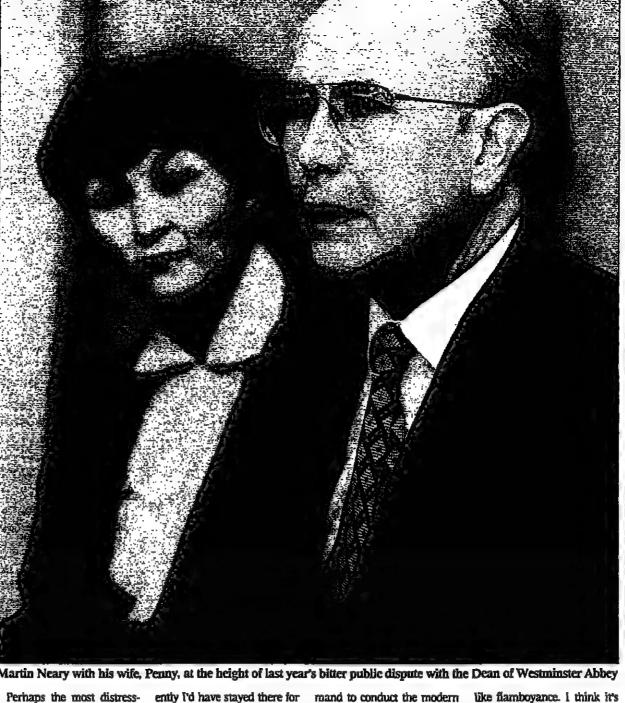
life after Westminster

t isn't exactly central to his repertoire, but Mar-tin Neary has surely drawn inspiration during these past few traumatic months from the old Jerome Kern song: "Pick yourself up, dust yourself down, start all over again." Exactly a year ago he was suspended from his job, the grandest in all musical Christendom. He was or-ganist of Westminster Abbey, a post once held by Henry Purcell. He had maintained an immaculate choral tradition. He had masterminded brilliant aural backcloths to majestic ceremonies, most famously the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. And, as a notable champion of modern British composers such as Jonathan Harvey and John Tavener, he had done much to ensure that the Anglican Church continued to have a living musical

All this counted for nothing when a new Dean, Wesley Carr, decided to make an issue of alleged financial irregulari-ties in the relationship between the Nearys (Martin's wife, Penny, handled the choir paperwork) and the abbey. The dispute was bitter, protracted and horribly public a dire advertisement for the Church's professed belief in forgiveness and humility. Its conclusion, following a convoluted ruling by a High Court judge, was crushing. Neary, a cathedral organist for more than 30 years, was ignomini-ously ejected from the world he loved

Many in the Church felt that, whatever the murky facts, this was a disgraceful way to treat one of Anglican music's most diligent and loyal servants. How on earth did this mild man survive, let alone bounce back with the vigour of a boxer stung by a blow below the belt?

"I don't see how anybody could have gone through that rocess without feeling hurt," Neary says. "But we have been sustained, first, because we have faith — faith in our faith, and faith in ourselves and secondly because we have had amazing, unrelenting support, day in and day out. We feel incredibly humbled by it. Only the other day I had a card from a cricket-loving friend who said: Whenever I see the third umpire making a nonsense of a decision. I think of your experience, Joan Rodgers, Ian Bostridge, Paul Daniel and Julius Drake are even putting on a benefit concert for us. on May 9 at the Barbican. I'm very touched that such stars feel so strongly."



Martin Neary with his wife, Penny, at the height of last year's bitter public dispute with the Dean of Westminster Abbey

Perhaps the most distressing moment came when the Nearys had to quit the abbey organist's traditional house, in the Cloisters. "We'd done 16 years at Winchester Cathedral and more than a decade at the abbey, so we'd been members of closed communities for a long time. Luckily we had bought a place in Fulham. knowing that the time would eventually come when we would need it. We didn't antici-

pate it would be quite so soon." Remarkably, Neary believes that good may yet come out of the sorry mess. "As a result of the most unwelcome publicity the whole matter of security of tenure for cathedral musicians may well be improved," he thinks. He also says that he harbours no bitterness towards the abbey. "I was blessed with the privilege of working there for 11 years, and obviously if things had gone differently I'd have stayed there for another six or seven. We will never say anything to put down the abbey." Even so, it is with some rel-

ish that Neary lists the work he has been offered since leaving Westminster. The interence is clear. If he was untrustworthy, as the abbey charged, he would be shunned by the rest of the Church and the music profession. But the reverse appears to be true. "I have been asked by the Royal School of Church Music to be a consultant for its new Millennium Youth Choir, which is very much the initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Neary says. "I'm flattered and honoured that he should want me involved. I'm also doing lots of organ recitals this summer, then I'm off to Australia to work with the Australian

And Neary is also in de-

they heard about it the more alarmed they got. It's certainly not your average choral society passion. There are an awful lot of difficult things for the performers. But the work also has wonderful lyricism and

power, indeed, for all its

avant-garde moments, the Re-

surrection part has a Verdi-

chester in 1981.

ing pieces of sacred music writ-

ten since 1945: Jonathan Har-

vey's "church opera" Passion

and Resurrection, which

Neary commissioned and pre-

miered when he was at Win-

he piece, says Neary, had originally been

intended for Canter-

bury, "but the more

like flamboyance. I think it's Jonathan's most approachable English music with which he is so much associated. Tomorrow, for instance, he steers Sin-Neary maintains that he is fonia 21 and the BBC Singers now having a "fantastic time" through one of the most strikconducting such events: con-

certs that might never have come his way if he had stayed at Westminster, But ask him whether he will ever go back into cathedral life — even after the demeaning events of last year — and his eyes light up. "I think it's highly probable, yes. Some things about cathedral life I miss enormously: the very special rapport with the

choristers, for instance. So I'm

keeping all options open." Meanwhile, if it isn't too biasphemous a thought, conducting a piece called Passion and Resurrection seems an appropriate way to close the book on the worst year of his life. Passion and Resurrection is at St John's, Smith Square (0171-222) 1061), tomorrow at 7.30pm

worth the trip

his is the third year that Woking has hosted its international dance festival and the lineup is usually impressive. But the festival's main foreign draw this time around has been a big lerdown: Doug Varone and Dancers, a New York-based company which gave two performances at the New Victoria Theatre at the end of a fortnight's residency in Woking

Varone and his ensemble have been kicking around for years. They are currently celebrating their thirteenth season with performances in America, Europe and Asia. The programme they brought to Woking Dance Umbrella last weekend offered three pieces choreographed by Varone in the 1990s. What do they tell us about this durable American? That he likes good music. And that he makes bad dances.

DANCE

Let's Dance, set to a wonder-, ful selection of classic swing era recordings from Benny Goodman to Rosemary Clooney, is the kind of piece that wants to let you know it's having a good time up there on stage. The ensemble, who come in a pleasing variety of shapes and sizes, are full of bounce, making merry in what could be a spontaneous dance-fest by a party of teenagers who have just discovered their parents' jazz collection. But so unstructured and unfocused is the energetic choreography that it feels as if the dancers are making it up as they go along — and that they are fast running out of ideas. Rise (1993) is apparently regarded as Varone's "breakthrough piece". What a sur-prise. As other choreographers have already proved. John Adams's Fearful Symmetries can really excite a { stage. Varone, however, ignores the rousing rhythms in

spin and dip through the shapeless sponge of his impoverished physical language. Larking about to opera is something of a dance clicke, although with wit and intelligence it can be made to work. Varone's Bel Canto, set to the well-decorated sounds of Bellini's opera Norma, is an attempt at ballet parody that falls flat on its silly mugging faces. Worst of all is the allmale pas de deux for Larry Hahn and Varone himself. which comes across as little more than a nauseatingly cute-

Adams's driven score. Instead

of imaginative interplay with

the music he opts for a kind of

mechanical accompaniment.

leaving his eight dancers to

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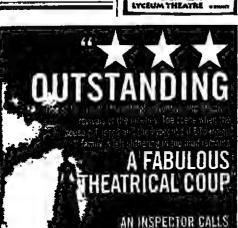
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Court of Appeal

Deciding where employee works

Carver v Saudi Arabian Air- Britain" in section 10 of the 1975 Act

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice

Judement March 17i

In deciding where an employee "ordinarily works" for the purposes of section 196(2) of the Employment Rights Act 1996, regard had to be paid to the whole contemplated pcriod of the contract and not simply to some lesser period within that whole period.

It followed that a flight attendant working under a contract made subject to the laws of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who trained in Jeddah and later worked in India before being transferred to London, was based in Jeddah.

The Court of Appeal so beld in ng an appeal by the plaintiff. Mrs Lourdes Carver, from a decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal on February 18, 1998, upholding a decision of an industrial tribunal on December 5, 1996, that had no jurisdiction to hear the plaintiff's complaint that she had been constructively dismissed in breach of section 94(1) of 1996 Act. The question of jurisdiction under section 6 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 was remitted to a different by constituted industrial tribunal.

Mr David Bean, QC and Mr Thomas Linden for Mrs Carver; Mr Timothy Brennan for Saudi

LORD JUSTICE MANTELL said that Mr Justice Morison, President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, had observed that the suggested that the Court of Appeal should have an opportunity to give further guidance to tribunals who had to decide whether claims under the 1995 and 1975 Acts were within their jurisdiction.

There existed, in principle, a public

interest defence to a claim for

September 2, 1998 of copies of still

pictures taken on August 30, 1997

by security video apparatus of the

arrival at and departure from a vil-

la of Princess Diana and Mr Dodi

Al Fayed, constituted "fair dealing

with a work ... for the purpose of re-

porting current events" within section 30(2) of the Copyright Designs

Chancery Division, in dismissing an application by the plaintiff.

Hyde Park Residence Ltd. for sum-

many judgment for (a) damages for

breach of copyright and (b) addi-

tional damages under section 97(2) of the Act, against David Yelland.

News Group Newspapers Ltd., News International Ltd. respective-

ly the editor, publishers and print-

ers of The Sun, and Reuben Mur-

rell, a former employee of the plain-

vides: "(2) The court may in an ac-

tion for infringement of copyright having regard to all the circum-

stances, and in particular to - (a) the flagrancy of the infringement.

and (b) any benefit accruing to the

defendant ... award such addition-

al damages as the justice of the

Mr Michael Bloch, QC and Mr

Section 97 of the 1988 Act pro-

Mr Justice Jacob so held in the

The publication in The Sun on

Velland and Others

Before Mr Justice Jacob

Judgment March 16

breach of copyright.

and Patents Act 1988.

Hyde Park Residence Ltd v Richard Spearman, QC. for the de-

were to be given the same meaning as "engaged in work wholly or mainly outside Great Britain" as used in section 196 of the 1996 Act, it would follow that the place where a person wholly or mainly worked was not necessarily the same place as where he ordinarily worked under his contract of em-

Lest it be suggested that the niceness of any such distinction might not have been apparent to Parlia-ment in 1975 it had to be remem-bered that section 9(1) of the Contracts of Employment Act 1963 and section (20) of the Contracts of Employment Act 1972 each excluded portions of the Act in relation to "employment during any period when the employee is engaged in work wholly or mainly outside Great Britain unless the employee ordinarily works in Great Britain and the puris custide Great Britain and the work outside Great Britain is for the same employer": a point is in the same employer? a point to which Lord Justice Megaw was fully alive as would be seen when Wilson v Maynard Shipbuilding Consultants AB [[1978] ICR 376]

So it was his Lordship's opinion that the use of different language was deliberate and that a distinction might have to be drawn between where a person ordinarily worked and the place where he wholly or mainly did his work. The distinction was one to be kept in mind when considering the main point in the appeal; namely what ng had to be given to section.

was considered later.

196(2) of the 1996 Act. 1902 of the 1990 Act.
The right of an employee not to be unlawfully dismissed was formerly contained in paragraph 4 of Schedule 1 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974. Paragraph 9(2) provided: "Paragraph 4 above does not apply to any em-ployment where under his contract of employment the employee ordi-narily works outside Great Brit-ain."

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that

on August 30, 1997 Mr Murrell, the chief security officer at the Villa

Windsor, set video security camer-

as so that they recorded the arrival and departure of the Princess of

It was common ground that shortly after the fatal accident next

day, at the request of another em-ployee of the latter's father. Mr Mo-hammed Al Fayed, be made two

pairs of stills from the video sys-

tem, showing the interval between

that arrival and departure to be

In their skeleton argument, the

defendants summarised the gist of

falsehoods published by Mr Al Fayed to the effect that on that day

gether and consistent not only with

their intention to get married and to live at the Villa Windsor ... but also with the existence of a conspir-

acy to kill them in order to prevent

their marriage. Oodi and Diana

had visited VIIIa Windsor for at

least two hours ... had manifested great happiness and affection ...

house and had taken a detailed in-

terest in every aspect of the house

The defendants said these were

falsehoods, concocted so as to di-

vorce Mr Al Fayed in the public

eye from any responsibility for that

fatal accident; also that he had ar-

ranged for employees at the Villa falsely to corroborate the story of

visit, and an alleged earlier

less then 28 minutes.

Wales and Dodi Al Fayed.

There was no material difference between paragraph 9(2) and section 196(2). The meaning of para 9(2) had been considered by the Court of Appeal on three previous

The first was Wilson v Maynard Shiphuliding Consultants AB.
Lord Justice Megaw, giving the judgment of the court, said (at p384): "In deciding whether or not under his common of employment. under his contract of employment the employee ordinarily works outside Great Britain, does one look to actually happened during the emwhich the tribunal is to decide a dis puted question as to where the employee 'ordinarily works under his contract of employment'?"

The first approach had been usefully characterised by Mr Justice Morison as the "contract test" and the second as the "function test". In Wilson the court came down on the side of the "contract test". Lord Justice Megaw said (at

p385): "The answer is that one must look at the terms of the contract express or implied ... This meaning conforms with the grammatical structure of paragraph 9(2). The present tense is used: 'ordinarily works'. If it had been intended to relate the decision to what had happened up to the time of dismissal, the present tense would be This construction also con-

forms, we believe, with good sense.
It means that that question whethright exists is settled at, and can be ascertained by reference to, the time of the making of the contract." The "contract test" was affirmed in Janata Bank v Ahmed (Quitibuddin) ([1991] ICR 791).

In Todd v British Midland Airseays Ltd (1978) ICR 959) a former The industrial tribunal declined ju-risdiction and their decision was

Public interest defence to breach of copyright exists

one: that Mr Murrell was asked to

tie, refused, and therefore re-signed, claiming he was entitled to

remove copies of the stills and take

them to The Sun, which, two days after Mr Al Fayed had, in The Mir-

ror, repeated that the visit had last-

ed two hours, published them on

On those facts, two issues arose: I Was a defence of fair dealing

Mr Bloch had urged that this

case was similar to Associated

Newspapers Group plc v News Group Newspapers Ltd [1986] RPC

515), where Mr Justice Walton had held that the publication of letters

passing between the late Duke and Duchess of Windsor, the copyright in which had been acquired by the

rent event of which subsection (3) of the Copyright Act 1956 is speak-

But only two days before the ublication of the stills Mr Al

Payed had again put into the pub-

tic domain the proposition that

there had been a two-hour visit to

the Villa, so it would be pedantic to

Walker had said in Pro Sieben Me-

dia AG v Cariton UK Television

Ltd (unreported, December 17,

1998, CA (Cly Div) Transcrint No.

1988 of 1998): " 'reporting current

and indefinite scope ... Any at-tempt to plot [its] precise bounda-

ries is doomed to failure ... [it] should be construed liberally.

Mr Bloch had objected that

thing other than current.

upheid by the appeal tribunal. Mr Todd appealed successfully to the Court of Appeal.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, referred to Wilson with approval but then continued (at p964): "But in other cases there is more difficulty. I refer particularly to the type of case we have here of the airline pilot. He is based in Great Britain but works for the greater part of the time overseas ... In those circumstances Megaw LJ and his colleagues departed from the literal words of paragraph 9(2) and adopted a liberal approach.

"This court adopted what may he called the 'base test'. Megaw LJ said: 'It is, in the absence of special factors leading to a contrary conclusion, the country where his base is to be which is likely to be the place where he is to be treated as ordinarily working under his contract of employment."

"The 'base test' ... is a good sensi-ble way of overcoming the literal meaning of the words 'ordinarily working' in the statute ... You have to go by the conduct of the parties and the way they have been operaring the contract. You have to find at the material time where the man

Mr Bean argued that "the material time" referred to by Lord Den-ning must mean the time at which the claim for unfair dismissal arose and that the plaintiff was clearly based in London at the material time. His Lordship did not take issue

with Mr Bean's reading of Lord Denning's judgment in Todd, But Lord Denning's enlargement of the Wilson principles was unneces-sary for the decision in Todd which, as was held by Sir David Cairns in that case, could be decided on a strict application of the test laid down by Lord Justice Megaw. Like Sir David Cairns, his Lordship considered that Wilson and

there was no need to publish the

stills. The Sun could have said they

Murrell, and/or challenged Mr Al

But, his Lordship said, the

had seen them and interviewed Mr

Faved to withdraw his statement.

former course would not have had

the same impact and the latter

would have invited pre-emptive le-

to publish the stills in order to re-fute what Mr Al Fayed had said.

clearly putting into public debate the question of what the mother of

a future sovereign had done at the

Villa Windsor and making it fair dealing for The Sun to come back

2 Was there a defence of public in-

Mr Bloch, citing The Modern Law of Copyright by Laddie, Pres-con & Vitoria (2nd edition, 1995,

paragraphs 2 150 to 2 153) denied

that there was a defence of public

nterest to copyright infringement.
No court had, at final judgment,

er so held, and all the judicial dis

Many such dicta existed, start-

ta to the contrary were wrong, he

ing with cases where copyright had been denied altogether, see

Glyn v Weston Feature Film Co [1916] 1 Ch 261), Silngsby v Brad-

ford Patent Truck and Trolley Co

(1906| WN 51) and Attorney General v Guardian Newspapers Ltd (No 2) (1990| 1 AC 109), the Spy-catcher case; and continuing with

cases where the courts had recog-nised a defence of public interest in

particular circumstances, such as

Beloff v Pressdram (11973) RPC 765.

Indeed, it was close to necessary

nal which was, therefore, obliged to consider the position as it was at the date of the contract. So viewed it was clear that the plaintiff's base could be nowhere other than Jed-

His Lordship would also reject Mr Bean's submission that the contract test was met because the contract contemplated transfers of the kind to which the appellant was

In Wilson, Lord Justice Megaw asked (at p386): "But what is to happen if ... an implied term of the contract leaves it to the employer's dis-cretion as to whether the work should be carried out wholly in Great Britain or wholly outside Great Britain or for some period or periods in one place and for another period or other periods in other

He provided this answer: "It necessarily follows, that to decide where an employee ordinarily works one must look to the contract and to the whole contemplated period of the contract, and not simply to some lesser period with-in that whole period." Under the 1975 Act the position

was quite different. The tribunal had to consider where at the time of the alleged discrimination the plaintiff was "wholly or mainly" working: see Haughton v Olau Line (UK) Ltd [1986] ICR 357). However, the tribunal decided inrisdiction on where the appellant was ordinarily working. That was

His Lordship would be minded. therefore, to remit the question of urisdiction to a tribunal, different ly constituted, to determine the question of jurisdiction. To that extent only he would allow the ap-

Lord Justice Ward gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Beldam agreed.

The upshot of Mr Bloch's analysis of the latter two authorities, which his Lordship accepted as cor-

any substantial basis in precedent for concluding that the public inter-

But that was not the end of the

matter: see dicta in Spycatcher by Lord Griffiths (at pp269 and 275), Lord Goff (at p268) and Lord Jaune-

ey (at p294). In addition to a series of excep-

tions to the infringement provi-sions, section 30(2) being an exam-ple, the 1988 Act provided by sec-tion [71(3) that nothing in Part 1 "al-

fects any rule of law preventing or

restricting the enforcement of copy-

right, on grounds of public interest

or otherwise". His Lordship examined the views taken of English law in Aus-

tralia and Canada and in other text-

books and continued that a public interest defence, albeit not of wide

scope and unlikely to succeed un-less the court could be reasonably

certain that no right-thinking mem-

ber of society would quartel with

the result, was available in princi-

Accordingly, disclosure in The Sun had been justified: indeed, the

case was so clear that not only were the defendants entitled to

judgment, but even if his Lordship

had been wholly wrong about both main issues he would, on the

ground of public interest, have

Solicitors: D. J. Freeman: Parrer

awarded no additional damages.

est defence defence existed.

Solicitors: Pattinson Brewer; Janata Bank were binding on the court as they were upon the tribu-

Evans ([1985] QB 526).

Lender's security clause does not breach EC law

Citibank International plc v Kessler and Another Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord

Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice

(Judgment March 10) A standard clause in a domestic mortgage by which the borrower agreed not to let the mortgaged property without the prior written consent of the lender did not contravene article 48 of the EC Treaty which guaranteed freedom of movement for workers within the Community.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing the appeal of the plaintiff, Citibank International plc, against the refusal by Judge Catlin in Reading County Court on September 15, 1998 of the bank's application to strike out certain paragraphs of the re-amended defence of Sigurd Peter Thaddeus Kessler and Liv Kessler in possession proceedings brought by Chibank as mortgagee of Wild Edge, The Ridges, Fin-chamstead, Wokingham, Berk-

Mr and Mrs Kessler were German nationals. They came to the United Kingdom for Mr Kessler to set up the United Kingdom subsidi-ary of BMW. They purchased the property as their home, borrowing over £220,000 from Citibank in

The mortgage contained a stand-ard covenant by the mortgagor not to lease the property without the prior written consent of the mortgagee. Mr Kessler returned to Ger-many to work in 1991, and fell into arrears with the mortgage repay-

The house had become unsaleable because of structural defects and an unresolved boundary dispute and could not be remort-gaged, but Citibank refused to permit a letting of the property.

As a result Mr Kessler could not afford to remain in Germany, and also had to refuse work there in 1994. Citibank began possession proceedings in 1994.

In a re-amended defence Mr and Mrs Kessler alleged that a term should be implied into the mortgage that Ciubank would not unreasonably withhold its consent to a lease and that article 48 of the EC Treaty, which guaranteed freedom of movement for workers within the Community, prevailed over the legal charge. Mr and Mrs Kessier counter-

claimed for loss of rent and loss of earnings of about £400.000. Citipank's application to strike out those parts of the defence was re-fused. Citibank appealed.

Mr David Vaughan, QC and Mr Richard Mawhluney for Citibank; Mr Peter Duffy, QC, for Mr and Mrs Kessler.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK said that the relevant questions of the defence turned on the question whether, and if so what reliance could be placed on article 48 of the EC Treaty in the context of a do-mestic mortgage over property in

Article 48 provided for freedom movement for workers within the Community. The scope of arti-cle 48 had been considered by the European Court of Justice in Walrave and Koch v Association Union Cycliste Internationale (Case, 36/74) (1974) ECR 1405) and Union Royale Beige des Sociétés de Football Association ASBL v Bo (Case C-415/93) (1995) ECR 1-4921). Both were cases in which the rel-

evant rules were aimed at regulating in a collective manner gainful employment and the provision of Nevertheless, Mr Duffy submitted that a provision which had neither of those characteristics, in an agreement between individual persons or undertakings, could none the less be struck down as incompatible with article 48; alternativey, could give rise to a tortious lia-tility in damages against a party

who sought to rely upon it. A provision excluding the bor-rower's statutory power of leasing without the lender's prior consen was generally included in an instiutional mortgage.

The term was required to protect the mortgagee's security; in that it prevented the mortgaged property becoming encumbered with an u wanted tenancy which could, particularly in property in residen occupation, adversely affect his ability to exercise the remodies of ion and sale.

The circumstances said to give rise to the need to imply the pro-posed term occurred after the

harge was executed. His Lordship found it impossible to understand how events subsequent to the execution of the legal arge could be relied on as a basis for implying a contractual term into the transaction effected by that charge.

Those matters could not have

any relevance to the question of There was no material distinction, in relation to freedom of move-ment within the Community, between a German national, ba temporarily in England, who wished to return to Germany and a United Kingdom national, who had lived in England all his life, who need to be a compared to the company and the who wished to relocate to Germany to take up employment.

If the defence were right and the term were to be implied into this mortgage there was no reason why it should not be implied, also, into every other domestic mortgage which contained a covenant by the mortgagor not to exercise his statu-tory powers of leasing without the prior consent of the mortgagee.

There remained the question of whether the provisions of article 48 tible with the exerwere incompanions with the exer-cise by Citibank of the power to mortgaged property where withfree movement of the borrower, as a worker, within the Community.

There was no support in Walrave or Bosman for the contention that there was incompatibility. Clause 2.17.2 of the mortgage conditions was not aimed at regulating employment; and the mortgage conditions were not part of some collective arrangement.

There was nothing which could said to infringe article 48(2) or

The obstacle which faced Mr Kessler was that he was unable to take on the new financial commitments which a move to Germany would have entailed without dis-charging his existing financial commitments under the bank's legal

charge.
The obstacle existed because he had taken on financial commit-ments the performance of which was protected by fetters over the way he could deal with that property imposed for the protection of Citi-

The obstacle was Citibank's wish to rely on its own judgment as to the continuing need to protect its

security. That was simply not the sort of obstacle to which article 48 was directed. Mr Kessler took on financial commitments to Citibank to acquire a house in England so that he could take up employment here.

Citibank was willing to lend to him on terms which gave it the protection it required. That facilitated his freedom of movement at the time, But there was a danger that banks would be less willing to lend to those whose occupation was such that they might move between member states to seek employment, if there were a risk that provisions included in the loan documentation to protect the lender would be held unenforceable in

Far from promoting freedom of movement for workers, by facilitating the ability to obtain funds for the acquisition of residential property in any member state in which they were working, the construc-tion Mr Duffy urged would be likely to impede such freedom of move-

Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Laws agreed. Solicitors: Salans Hertzfeld & Heilbroon HRK, Moorgate: Mait-

Delaying taking instructions

Regina v McFarlane

A solicitor could defer taking instructions until the detail of the prosecution case was known, but ne should not encourage his client to prograstinate before saving what his defence was, especially conflicting defences might arise. The Court of Appeal (Lord Jus-

tice Rose, Mr Justice Cresswell and Mr Justice Latham) so stated on February 23 when refusing a renewed application for leave to ap-peal by Sidney McFarlane against 1995 at the Central Criminal Court (Judge Hawkins, QC and a jury) of murder and affray.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said that at trial the defence had challenged the identification evidence. It was now contended that the conviction was unsafe because the apolicant's solicitor was incompetent and ignored instructions to raise

self-defence. The solicitor had concealed from counsel that the appli-cant had admitted the stabbing to That was more than an error of

judgment. Both solicitor and client wanted to postpone as long as possible deciding which defence to run, and the solicitor deliberately delayed taking instructions. Solicitors had a duty to do their lead the court by being party to

outling forward a case which they Solicitors could defer taking in-

structions until the prosecution case was known, but must not ennate before saying what their defence was. However, their Lordships did

not accept that the applicant's true instructions were to run scif-de-

Reporter not responsible for publication

Gleaves and Others v Insali Gleaves v Insall Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Blofeld

Judgment March 4 A newspaper reporter was not a person responsible for the publication of a newspaper" within the meaning of section 8 of the Law of Libel (Amendment) Act 1888.

Where, therefore, criminal libel proceedings were commenced against a reporter. It was unnecessary for an order to be obtained from a judge in chambers.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in (i) dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Roger Charles Gleaves, Norman David Bolton, and Peter Lewis Done of the decisions of Reading Justices that (a) a newspaper article published on February 2, 1997 did not constitute criminal libel. and the that the issuing of a summons by Mr Gleaves constituted an abuse of process; and (ii) allowing an appeal by way of case stat-ed, by Mr Gleaves, against the decision of Mr Inigo Bing, supendiary magistrate, at Ashford Magistrates Court dismissing a summons afleging criminal libel issued by Mr Gleaves in respect of an arti-cle published on February 23, 1997. because on a true construction of section 8 of the 1888 Act Mr Gleaves was obliged prior to commencing prosecution to obtain

leave of a judge in chambers. Roger Insall was a journalist who wrote for the News of the World On February 2, 1997 a report, written by Mr Insall, was published in which Mr Gleaves, Mr Bolton and Mr Dore were

On February 5, 1997, without seeking leave from a judge, an in-formation was laid at Thames Magistrates Court that alleged that the report constituted eriminal libel contrary to section 5 of the Li-E. Rees, metropolitan supendiary magistrate, exercising her discreon the ground the application was

On March 5, 1997, in response to a second article which appeared in the News of the World on February mation against Mr Insall at Ashford Magistrates Court, alleging

that in several respects he had been defamed in the second article. contrary to section 5 of the 1843 Act.

On April 14, informations were laid at Reading Magistrates Court by Mr Dore, Mr Bolton and Mr Cilcaves that the first report consti-1997. Reading Justices dismissed allegations of criminal libel and held that Mr Gleaves's failure to disclose the refusal to issue an identical summons by Mrs Rees at Thames Magistrates Court consututed an abuse of process.

On June 3, 1997, Mr Inigo Bing, at Ashford held that the body of nersons who collectively composed newspaper, included the author of a text which was published by the publication of words in a newspa-

Further, that without the words or text written by the journalist there could be no words to be made public and, therefore, before commencing proceedings under sec-tion S of the 1888 Act leave of a High Court judge was required. Section 8 of the 1888 Act provides: "No criminal prosecution shall be commenced against any proprietor, publisher, editor, or any person responsible for the pub-lication of a newerons.

ition of a newspaper for any libel contained therein, without the order of a judge at chambers being first had and obtained." Mr Richard Parkes for Mr Insall; Mr Gleaves, Mr Bolton and Mr Lewis in person.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said it was clear beyond argument that where one magistrate had considered and ruled on a question of whether to issue a summons, if the same application went to a differ ent magistrates court that court had to be told what the first court had decided.

As to the allegations of criminal libel, that was a rare form of proexedings which required that the of-fence had to be so serious itself that the offender should be punished: see Goldsmith v Sperring ([1977]] WLR 478, 488); R v Wells Street Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Deakin and Others (1978) | WLR 1008, 1011): Goldsmith v Pressdram ([1977] QB 83) and Gleaves v Deakin [[1980] AC 477).

In the instant case, none of the matters complained of came near to constituting criminal libel. There was clearly a different view being expressed by the two sti-pendiary magistrates as to wheth-er or not leave should be required. quirement in section 8 should apply where action was taken again a reporter had been considered on

ously formed the subject matter for The point had been considered in the Queen's Bench Division in Clarke and Others (1993) NILR 576) where Mr Justice Carswell

"An application for leave is not necessary where the intended prosecution was against the author of a newspaper article ... the words 'person responsible for the publication of a newspaper in section 8 of the Law of Libel (Amendment) Act 1888 are to be construed ejusdem generis with the preceeding words any proprietor, publisher or edi-

"In my view they were intended to cover persons who bring the newspaper out. not the contributors whose material is contained in the issues published. I do not think that the argument is correct that a journalist employed by a newspa-per to write material for the publication is a person responsible for contribution forms part of the sub-

His Lordship agreed with that opinion. The contributor merely provided the material. It remained with the editor the choice of what

Article IO of the European Convention of Human Rights and Fun-Mr Justice Blofeld agreed.

Solicitors: Farrer & Co. Common law right to remedy defects

Pearce and High Ltd v Baxter and Another

The defects liability clause in the JCT Agreement for Minor Building Works, 1980 edition, did not de-prive the employer of his common law right to recover damages for the contractor's breach of contract. when the employer had failed to comply with the clause's provisions whether by refusing to allow the contractor to carry out repairs or by failing to give notice of the de-

The Court of Appeal (Lord Jusnce Evans, Lord Justice Tuckey and Mr Justice Hidden) so held on February 15 allowing the appeal of Mr and Mrs J. P. Baxter against Mr Recorder Hall in Swindon County Court who on June 26. 1998, held, inter alia, that the contractors, Pearce and High Ltd. could not be sued in respect of defects in the contract works for alterations and extensions to the employers' home because of their failure to notify the contractors of delects within the six-month liability

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that the clause gave the employer

period stipulated.

great practical value to the party concerned.

If the contractor were denied his right and another was employed to remedy defects, the contractor was not liable for the full cost of re-

damental Freedoms (1953, Cmd 8969) had no bearing on the matter that the court was concerned with.

the express right to require the contractor to return, and the contractor himself the right to return and repair the defect if he was willing. Both rights were likely to be of

The employer could not recover more than the amount which it would have cost the contractor himself to remedy the defects.

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COMPANIES ACT 1985
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All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their dates he writing to me. No further public adjustment of invitation an Sreed Abbott & Mongain

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COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THESE SECTIONS PLEASE Telaphone 0171 680 6878 Fax 0171 782 7930

Or Email received by 2,30pm two days prior to insertion.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Graf steps up a gear to dismiss Zvereva

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

WHILE the men's draw at the Lipton championships here is looking distinctly thin - after Greg Rusedski's defeat on Monday night there are only three men from the top 20 left and two of them play each other - the women's event is warming up nicely. The lead-ing players are all making their presence felt, even if it is not quite as easy for some as it

used to be. Steffi Graf is still some months away from her 30th birthday but she seems to have been around since tennis began. Certainly Natasha Zvereva has been around since Graf began and over the years they have met 20 times. Only once has Zvereva got the better of Graf and that was at Wimbledon last year. It was, she said at the time, the only time she had managed to concen-trate from the first ball to the

last and, as tactics go, it was remarkably successful.

Yesterday, aiming for a place in the quarter-finals. such powers of concentration were beyond her as Graf beat her yet again, 6-2.6-4. Not that Graf was best pleased with her efforts. Both of them, she thought, could have played much better and she was not impressed to be one point away from a 3-0 deficit in the first set. Rattling off the next six games, she seemed to be making her point quite forcefully until Zvereva started arguing back in the second set. Still, at her age, Graf has

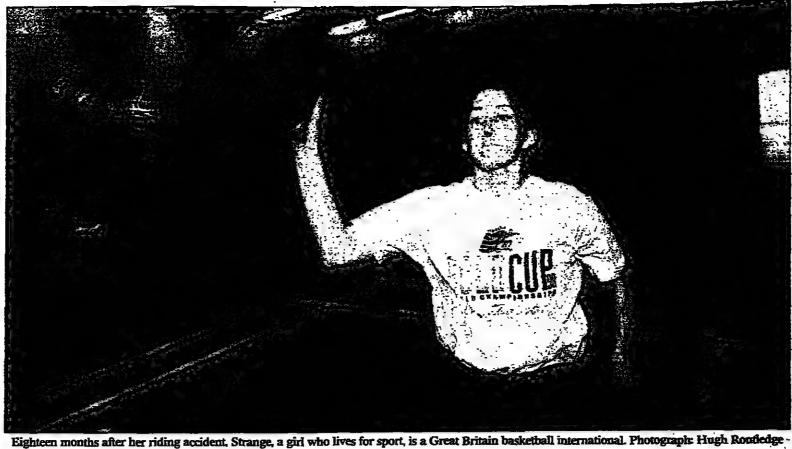
heard it all before, and the resuit was never really in doubt. The only difference these days is that Graf has to work a little harder than she used to.

For Martina Hingis life is still so simple. For all her titles and all her money, she is still a teenager and given half a chance to show off, she jumps at it. It would have taken Hingis longer to spell Markene Weingartner than it took to beat her 6-0, 6-2, and that put a smile on her face, "I didn't let her into the game, that was probably the secret," she confessed. It was hardly the most profound of revelations, but it said it all.

Venus Williams discovered that there were rather more people involved in her game than she had bargained for late on Monday night, With Marcelo Rios playing later on, the South American supporters had moved in and were delighted to see that Fabiola Zuluaga, from Colombia, was doing battle with the taller of the Williams sisters. They were the only ones, mind you. When Zuluaga first arrived in Miami, no one, not even the Women's Tennis Association, knew who she was. Only by asking around in the lockerroom did it dawn on tourna-ment officials that they had a champion on their hands. Zuluaga is the toast of Bogota, having won the title there last

Williams had not seen the like. Playing in her own back yard, she expected at least someone to be on her side, but no. The crowd cheered Zuluaga's every move and, realising she had been completely upstaged. Williams got the match over and done with as quickly as possible, winning 6-3, 6-4, and then stepped aside to let her 20-year-old opponent lap up the applause. Williams is maturing almost as fast as her termis.

LINKS



Disabled athletes fight for fair deal

Rob Hughes reports on efforts to modernise the

chair, sharing with the occu-

pants, sportsmen to sports-

man or woman, the normal

discussions of athletes in

training. Dallaglio, and in-deed the administrators of

was there. Lennox Lewis, the almost undisputed heavyweight champion of the world, was there. Lawrence Dallaglio, captain of the England rugby team, was there. And the reception hall at Lancaster House, the Government's grand place to entertain visitors, was graced by as many Olympians as you can

With respect, none of them impressed me more than Clare Strange, 19, an athlete whose name and personality may not have come to your attention. Strange competed for Great Britain as an under-21 hockey international until, eighteen months ago, while horse-riding through a forest. she crashed into a tree, her spinal cord severed.

Strange, and many of the athletes of disabled sport, are confined to the wheelchair, but their spirit is not. And, because Prince Charles has been pairon for 21 years of the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation, he was leading them yesterday on the launch of an appeal to give wheelchair athletes "a sporting

The Guttmann Sports Centre, at Stoke Mandeville in Buckinghamshire, adjoining

run-down sports facilities at Stoke Mandeville the most progressive spinal However, Lewis carried unit in Europe, is run down, lacking the basic facilities, himself with a remarkable dignity, kneeling on the ground beside each wheeland in need either of a £5 mil-

back from the Paraplegic Ol-ympics in Atlanta in 1996. rugby, football and other sports, equally joined in. And come October 30 they, all the sports of this country, ous yesterday. One is that a nation that has an unspent will have their chance to give surplus approaching £2 bil-lion needs to launch an something - perhaps a donation from their wealthy gains or simply an endorsement appeal for the basic require-

lion injection of capital, or of

some philanthropic renova-

tion if competitors such as

Strange are to build on the

122 medals that our disabled men and women brought

Two things were incongru-

ments to assist wheelchair people 'Lewis carried to help themselves. himself The other was that Lewis, who is exwith pecting to meet Evander Holyfield remarkable later this year in a dignity, second attempt to unify the world heavyweight titles, sharing the will share a purse, normai over the two contests, grossing each discussions of boxer £20 million apiece ... for trying athletes in to disable the other training'

Dealer West

That day alone should raise the E10 million that is the Wheelchair Foundation's first target in order to meet the proportion of grant they seek from the lottery fund. The Sports Council of Eng-land, allegedly sitting on £205 million of unallocated National Lottery Fund, could, if the will and the lottery rules allowed, simply make the

donation tomorrow. The priority at Stoke Mandeville would be to renovate a six-line track that is unsuitable for wheelchair competi-

tion. Dawn John, the director of the sports centre, plans an eight-lane track, if possible in different coloured lanes to assist the par-tially sighted. Next, in the sleeping dormito-ries that resemble the days of Dad's Army, there are plans to build 100 new sleeping quarters, to pro-vide some privacy and dignity. Then there is the plan for a new, international-standard

sports hall, and down

the road, efforts to take the ri-fle range and other facilities out of their Nissen-but postwar decrepitude.

There are, in a given year, a million people using Stoke Mandeville for sport, half of them physically disabled. While the Prince could oil the wheels of their appeal, it is, and will always be, the com-petitors themselves who perpetuate what began in 1948 by Sir Ludwig Guttmann, an eminent neurologist who was de-termined to show that sport, as recreation or as competition, could inspire spinal inju-

ry victims to live full lives.

Before her accident.

Strange was an international hockey player; after it, she is making remarkable progress in another team game.

"People ask me, if I could have my time over again, if I regret losing my mobility."
Strange said. "Of course I do, but now, having found within a year of taking up basketball that I can begin to compete on an international level, having learnt the skills and the friendships that have come through competition, I would not want to give up those experiences either.

"Sport is my life," she said, and somehow it seems far less trite than from many an able-bodied champion.

Australia issue late invitation to Moody

By JOHN STERN

TOM MOODY, the Worcestershire captain, has been called up to the Australia World Cup squad. Moody, 33, who has just captained Western Australia to the Sheffield Shield, was not selected in the provisional 19-man squad because of concerns about his fitness.

However, Trevor Hohms, the chairman of selectors, said that Moody's vast experience of English conditions was an important factor in the decision to add him to the party. He and Steve Waugh, the captain, are the only survivors from the Australia squad that won the 1987 World Cup in India and Pakistan.

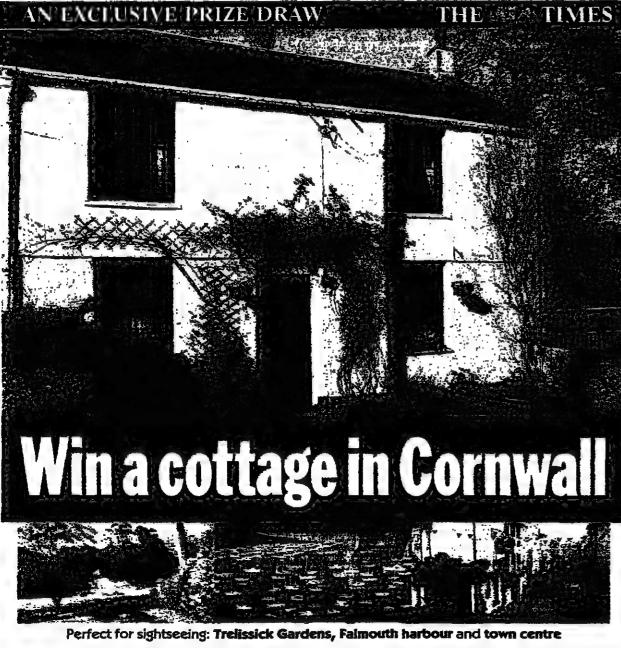
Worcestershire have decided not to seek a replacement for Moody as their overseas player. The county has asked steve Rhodes, the wickerkeeper, to captain the side until Moody returns after the World Cup. Worcestershire's nominated vice-captain is Graeme Hick, but he will be playing for England.

"I wasn't considering it at all," Moody said. "I thought my chances were very slim, but I was hopeful that my form and fitness over the last few weeks would have helped." Paul Reiffel, the seam bowler, is also included despite his injury problems and the fact that he last played for his country a year ago.

Andrew Symonds, former Gloucestershire player who opted to pursue a place in the Australia seam and gave up his English qualification, was yestertlay named as Kent's overseas player for the coming season.

John Wright, the Kent coach, said: He is an outstanding young player who has performed well in England before at county level. We were looking for a player with a competitive attitude, seasonlong availability and all-round

shility."
Adam Dale, a member of the World Cup party, took six for 67 to bowl the Australians to a 154-run victory over West Indies A in Ansigua yesterday.
Australia squate s fi wann (capani, sk wann, MG Bevan, A Cotte, D W Ferning A G Gettest, B F Alem, Siles, D Statement, G D McGraft, D R Nartyn, T M Modoly, R T. Poning, P R Reds, M E Warns



 Today The Times, in association with the Virgin One account, offers readers the chance to win a lovely cottage in the typical Cornish village of Perranwell Station. Smithy Cottage, with its two bedrooms and pretty garden, is the ideal holiday home. Close to Truro and an 18-hole golf course, our prize cottage will provide the lucky winner with the perfect place from which to watch the total eclipse of the sun on August 11. HOW TO ENTER Collect 19 Times tokens and two tokens from The Sunday Times and attach them to the entry form which will appear again next Tuesday. A total of 28 tokens will appear up to April 18 so

you have at least two opportunities to enter. There will also be a bonus taken published every Friday. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received by Friday, April 30, 1999. Normal Times Newspapers prize draw rules apply. The terms and conditions

vill appear again on Saturday.

 The One account offers a 94-hour, sevenday telephone banking service and, by bringing together all your banking and borrowing, gives you the opportunity to save thousands of pounds in laterest charges on your montgage. Even if you are not tudy enough to win dur fabulous cottage, you can still gain by finding out how much a Virgio One account could save you by making the most of all your money.

If you have seeings and a mortgage, soft the Virgin



CHANGING TIMES



By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

Bryan Maksymetz, a Canada international, demonstrated that sometimes all you you need to do is count to thirteen. Maksymetz was sitting South on the deal below. First he found a way to play in his right-hand-opponent's first-bid suit, and then he took full advantage of his opponents' signalling.

N-S game

♦ Q7 ♥ QJ 102 ♦ QJ 954 + KQ			♦ 93 ♥ 98743 ♦ A10 ♣ J642 W E S		♠ 10842 ♡ K5 ◊ K732 ♣ 985		
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			086	•			
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S		W.		N		E.	
-		1 D		Pass		15	
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Maksymetz might have doubled INT for penalties, but on the actual hand East-West have a cheap resting place in diamonds. He decided that it was simpler

to bid Two Spades, hoping that the suit would not break too badly.
West led the queen of hearts to declarer's ace, and Maksymetz made his first good move when he laiddown the ace of clubs. The fall of the queen persuaded him that West had four hearts and five diamonds along with two cards in each black suit. So Maksymetz next cashed the ace of spades before exiting with a second

club to West's king. When West played the queen of diamonds, and East encouraged that suit, Maksymetz assumed that East had the king of dia-monds. This left the West hand with 6 high-card points in the red suits along with the king and queen of clubs: a total of 11. To make up an opening bid. West needed the queen of spades. (Some 11-counts may be worth opening but not the aceless, shapeless variety West would have had.) So Maksymetz laid down the king of spades and dropped the queen offside.

The extra trick was only an overtrick, but at matchpointed pairs every little

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HAGGADAY a. A type of hawk b. Male chauvinism c. A latch

JESSE a. A strap for a hawk b. A tree c. A bonnet

HARATCH a_A tax b. Ship's ballast

> HARFANG a. An Innuit trident b. An owi

c. A diacritic

c. A Hungarian diphthong

KEENE on CHESS BY RAYMOND KEENE

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Parliamentary moves

Good news for chess organisations. To coincide with a visit by Garry Kasparov to this country, Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, has announced the Government's support for chess and other mind games to gain recognition as sports. In a debate in Parliament, Bankssaid: "I can confirm to the House that the Secretary of State has proposed to broaden the scope of the 1937 Act to enable chess and other mind games to be funded by the UK Sports Council,

We will do that as part of the new Cultural Framework Bill for which we are seeking legislative time. Once that is achieved, the Sports Council, in turn, will need to promulgate the appropriate amendments to its royal charters, which I feel certain it will want to do following our amendments to the 1937 Act." Here is a classic game by

Kasparov, one he picked for his own choice of the ten best ever played. White: Garry Kasparov

Black: Lajos Portisch Niksic 1983 Queen's Indian Defence

Nc3 a3 cxd5 e3 0-0

17 d5 evd5

19 Bdt7+ Kxh7 Red5 Kvg7

RidS KIS Nd7+ Oh7 Rc7 Rd3 RG11 Oh7+ 24+

Keene online You can send me your queries puzzles, problems and games

direct by e-mail. The address

is keenechess@aol.com. The

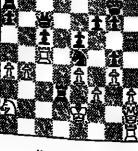
best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

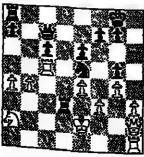
Times book The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

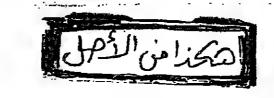
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Ward -Hillarp Persson, Jersey 1998 White's pieces have been flung to the far corners of the board and his king is very open. It is not surprising that Black found a quick win. What did he play?







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- E.K

RACING: CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP RUNNER-UP TO CONTEST MARTELL CUP AT AINTREE

Go Ballistic to miss National

RACING CORRESPONDENT

GO BALLISTIC, second favourite for the Martell Grand National at Aintree next month, was yesterday ruled out of the race. David Nicholson, his trainer, revealed that last week's Cheltenham Gold Cup runner-up will instead, by the preference of his owner, contest the Martell Cup two

days before the National.

This news will inevitably cause a shake-up in the ante-post betting and the growing support for another blicklying. support for another Nicholson entry, Call it A Day, is sure to continue after the booking of Richard Dunwoody to ride him. Baronet, who is to be the only other runner from the Nicholson stable, will be ridden by the stable jockey, Richard Johnson, leaving Adrian Maguire free to partner Addington Boy for

Perdy Murphy. Nicholson had given warning last week that Go Ballistic, who belied odds of 66-1 when finishing a length second to See More Business in the Gold Cup at Chehenham, was not certain to run in the National. Bookmakers nevertheless quoted him at 10-1, with only Double Thriller - trained by Paul Nicholls -- shorter.

it had been thought that Nicholson would make his decision based on video evidence of Go Ballistic's previous attempt over the National fences but he explained yesterday that he was acceding to the wishes of the horse's owner, Sheila Lockhart. "The owner wasn't keen and I am not in the business of persuading owners to run at Aintree," he

Go Ballistic will instead line up with his stable companion,



Go Ballistic, as low as 10-1 for the Grand National next month, will not run in the race

Escartefigue, in the Martell Cup over the Mildmay course. Nicholson, rallying strongly after a turbulent season in which the split with Maguire, his former stable jockey, has been followed by endless unsubstantiated rumours

regarding his own reprement and potential successors at his Jackdaws Castle yard, said of his two intended National runners: "Baronet wants the ground fast, but I am not worried about the going for Call It A Day."

Dunwoody finished second on Call It A Day in the Midlands Grand National last Saturday, the first time he had ridden him since the horse was a novice chaser. "He stayed the trip really well and I'm looking forward to riding him round Aintree." Dunwoody said.

The right arm that has given Dunwoody such an uncomfortable few months was still troubling him at Exeter yesterday but he insisted that t will not require surgery, "I have been assured that an operation is not the answer," he said. "I am having physic almost every day and I had some acupuncture treatment yesterday. It still isn't good but it's not stopping me."

By way of proof, Dunwoody rode a strong finish on Village King in the Buzzard Handicap Chase, completing a double for the trainer, Philip Hobbs, and inching ever closer to Peter Scudamore's record number of career winners -Dunwoody now trails by just six. Another consequence of this result, though, was to prolong the gathering misery of Tony McCoy's day, his last in the saddle before starting six days of suspension for

whip offences, McCoy looked likely to start his ban on a rare losing run of 19 rides until winning the final race for Martin Pipe on Laffah. Pipe is away on holiday and evidently unconcerned about the danger of losing his champion trainer title to Nicholls. "It's happened before," David, his son, said. But there is plenty of racing still to come and we'll have a lot of runners at Aintree."

McCoy and Pipe probably deserved a double as Country Store was beaten by 154 lengths in the Heavitree Brewery Challenge Cup, by a horse carrying 15lb less than it should have done. Hobbs's Norlandic profited from a programming fault at Weatherbys McCoy, visibly, was not pleased.

LUDLOW

2.00 Dubai Falcon. 2.30 Iranos. 3.00 Saddlers' Roe. 3.30 Coble. 4.00 Influence Pedler, 4.30 Grimley Gale. 5.00 Demintogher Yank. Carl Evans: 4.30 Grimley Gale.

going. Good

2.00 P.J. JOINTING CLAIMING HURDLE (52,339-2m) (13 numers)

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3.00 BUNDY (EUROPE) JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-0: 52,696: 2m) (12)



3.30 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP HURDLE

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4.00 BUNDY (UK) HANDICAP CHASE (£4,759: 3m) (13)

7-2 Seebook Led. 4 1 Save Delemi 9-2 Tressure Again, 7-1 Bold Statement, Je ntato, 8-1 Owins, Owed, 19-1 Industrice Peglior 12-1 others.

4.30 MAGNUS-ALLCROFT MEMORIAL TROPHY

HUNTERS CHASE (£1,742: 2m 4f) (20) 1 5-PP CHERRYMUT 27 (D.F.G.S) Mr. C Huddingan 10-12-7 2 PST- KINGSTHORPS 313 (F.G.) M Daniel 11-124 Mr D Bacton (S) 3 -FPP MODES'S MELDDIES 27 (D.S.) M J Geoget 9-12-4 Destance 4 SP-3 MODES'S MELDDIES 27 (D.S.) M J Geoget 9-12-4 Destance 4 SP-3 MODES'S MELDDIES 27 (D.S.) R Benz 12-12-4 Mr R Bens (7) 4 3P-3 NODELINE WITHOUT SET (11-12-4)

5 UA1- SHARRD 315 (D.F.6) P CIRCING 11-12-4

6 12-1 GRIBLEY GALE 18P (C.F.G.S) M Jackson 10-12-2

6 12-1 GRIBLEY GALE 18P (C.F.G.S) M Jackson 10-12-2

7 P-4 AMBERT SPAIN 23P (D.S.) S Andrews, 10-12-0 Mr S Andrews B-P-13 BASH, STREET 14 (D.S.) S Floot 7-12-0 - Mr S Andrews B-P-13 BASH, STREET 14 (D.S.) S Floot 7-12-0 - Mr S Bursh (3)

10 P-45 DAYTIBE DAWN 312P (D.G.) R Wate 9-12-0 - Mr S Bursh (3)

10 P-45 DAYTIBE DAWN 312P (D.G.) R Wate 9-12-0 - Mr D Dickerson (7)

12 12/2 FORMAL MYTATION 53P (D.F.G.) D Mytany 10-12-0

13 10-5 MACHITYE CRISS AN OF 5G G BYCKN 11-12-0 13 IP-F HACKETTS CROSS 40 (D.F.G) G Brezze 11:20 Mr H Hankey (7)
14 IP-F HACKETTS CROSS 40 (D.F.G) G Brezze 11:20 Mr G Stockton (5)
15 IP-P HEATHHANDS MACKET TO R Texque 7-12-0 Mr R Contrary (7)
17 IP-P JIM CANTLE 10P Mcc, D Smith 9-12-0 — Mr A Stateme
16 IP-B KING OF SHADOWS 19 (D.G) Mcs C Carten 12:12-0 Mr S Prior (7)
17 S3-P OVER THE BARROW 24P (S) Mcs E Devision 9-12-0 Mr A Walson (7)
18 4-62 PONTOON BRIDGE 19 (D.F.G.S) J Sentdets 12:12-0 Alts K (Darole (7) 19 2P-P SHEEMORE 5 E Hadosch 6-12-0 ______ Mas K Diggle (7)
20 2P-P2 SINGLE MAN 4P J Tach 11-12-0 _____ Miss T Blazer (7)

5.00 LUBLOW STANDARD OPEN KATIONAL HUNT

5-4 Gumley Gale, 5-1 Formal tentations, 17-2 Hodiorm Wooder, 8-1 Steated Pon Jose Bridge, 10-1 Kingsthorpe, 12-1 Basil Sheet, 20-1 olders.



5-2 Desimoglas Yank. 4-1 Maxical Missess, 9-2 Qualitais Surveus. 5-1 One o The Narves, 6-1 Calbour. 8-1 Golden Deal, 14-1 Garden Party D, 20-1 others **COURSE SPECIALISTS**

TRANERS: N Henderson, 11 winners from 28 renners, 39.3%, D Nickolson, 20 from 57, 25.1%, M Pipe, 25 from 100, 25.0%, R Certis, 6 from 22, 22%, C Methods, 4 from 78, 22.2%, N Freston-Danes, 17 from 79, 15.2%, Mics H Keight, 9 from 61, 14.8%, 6 Brookshaw, 5 from 34, 14.7%, JCCSYS A Marquer, 15 winners from 68 miles, 22.1%, R Johnson, 24 from 148, 20.2%, R Farand, 4 from 26, 15.4%, C Llowelly, 14 from 77, 13.0%, 5 Wyone, 12 from 107, 11.2%, D GaBagher, 4 from 36, 11.1%.

ROB WRIGHT 1.50 JACDOR (nap) 3.20 Grtzzty Bear 3.50 Win The Toss 4.20 Saffron Moss 4.50 Brave Dream -

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES). TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.20 THE HATCHER

Carl Evans: 4.20 Still In Business.

1.50 BEAGLES HOVICES HURDLE (£2,931: 2m 110yd) (15.tumiers)

1996: LAMMARAM 6-11-2 A P McCoy (6-5 km) T Foreier 16 can

ARMA, a winner over flurdles in New Zealand lest August, kad

Just moved into a slight lead and was travelling as well as any
when halling bour out on his British how in the Hearton's monto;
won by Lady For Life 12 days ago. Though his departure camé lino early to say how he would have
bore. Jacobr lest shaped as if in need of latther when flutching a well-beatan second bits pact live starts
(to Master Pflyrin et Fontweil and Heistand at Taunton), and Arms Chit may prove a bigger threat. A
women of a Wincester bumper last June, sie last returned creditable efforts in histog the runner-up spot
her latest two starts, finishing clear of the third when beaten five lengths by Wits Gurner at Pharmptor
text time. Flush, a women on the Flat for John Hills, has haled disappointed since beating New Berl at
Warwist in Jansany and stay prove best matched, while Westcosts appeared well suited by a greate
lest of stamme when beating Baraguey over two miles and five furlongs at Ludlow earlier this month.
Gare Hill, easy to back when a never dangerous lifth of 11 to Star Ul Dungamon at Kempton, and
Denbury Flyrer, who choked lest time after shaping well on his seappearance, look best of tire test.

2.20 CAFFREYS IRISH ALE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,773: 2m 3f 110yd) (10 runners)

| 201 | 43512 | PROE OF KASHMR 177 (B.D.F.S) (F.S.C Berry) P Hobbs 6-11-13 : F Dorwoody 97 | 202 | Fitting CLOD MOPPER 37 (BF.F.S) (F.Perrot) | Williams 9-11-7 | R Waldry 98 | 203 | ZUMATI | DRENTAL STYLE F (B.S.) (Syle Patines) G Baking 5-11-4 (re) | F Kenley (F) 93 | 204 | 2074G | BERTAL STYLE F (B.S.) (Syle Patines) G Baking 5-11-4 (re) | F Kenley (F) 93 | 204 | 2074G | BERTAL STYLE F (B.S.) (Syle Patines) G Baking 5-11-4 (re) | F Kenley (F) 93 | 204 | 2074G | PROMISE S SWEEDING F BERTAL DOLLER OF BETTIME: 7-1 Doveton, 7-2 Operated Style, 6-1 Pride Ol Kashanin, 13-2 The Halchel, 7-1 Cook Hoppes, 10-1 Steechland, 12-1 Demoids Town, 16-1 others

PRIDE OF KASHBUR, refitted with the bilinkers he were when norming out a very easy witner at Phumpton on his chace bow in Separathes, is later a to execute a so-morth absence and no except for Ziophar at Easter without he headques. Obtatal Style showed adminished battling qualifies when getting the better of Medang at Newton Abbot a week ago, times lossing his median status at the filterarch attempt. However, he appeared well susted by the step on the milities and live buttons det day and storter time particularly had the Haster at the engine and a place behind han when second to Calibratines Why at Leacester and Dand Gandoth's charge may now reverse those placings on 9th-better learns. Dovetto is proving a model of consistency but was a well-held that to Sol Masse of this mark at Tamahan last time and may need some help from the heardcapper to get his head in front. The kont-naming Clod Hopper has a world discappolating since witning all a 6th lower mark at Luddow in December but would have every chance it returning to his best. 1998: FRYS NO FOOL 8-11-4 C Lieucilyo (7-2 A tav) J Old 9 ran

2.50 FARRIER HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,645: 2m 4(110yd) (9 runners)



1998: DEPLAMAR 6-11-5 R Dutemonty (7-2) D Gandollo 7 can

Summe Special has not always been the gamest of Ruishers

but did flate wrong at Ecota lest mosts when beating Advance

Est 3% lengths with Lazys First a british 2½ lengths beat in

Est 3% lengths with Lazys First a british 2½ lengths beat in

Est 3% lengths with Lazys First a british 2½ lengths beat in

Est 3% lengths with Lazys First a british 2½ lengths beat in

Est 3% lengths with Lazys First a british 2½ lengths beat in

Est 3% lengths would not have been salted by the studding

beat, however, is PICKET PECCE David Nicholson's change was a shade disappointing when only thin

to Estactive Decision with two miles here three weeks and, length by the desired bluckside at Chel
whereable. He'd tooleed one to bollow plan to that reverse and, length flat would have cleans I also

the reproduce he rushang between the steps on indicating, this tengths second) but is not assy to

to reproduce his rushang between the first his tan share of weight. Handly Lass, a winner at Linguist in the

cas at Warwick is December but tengths his tan share of weight. Handly Lass, a winner at Linguist in the

cas at Warwick is December that has his tan share of weight. Handly Lass, a winner at Linguist in the

cas at Warwick is December that has not share of the tandicap. Red Lighter, off course since who
will have be improve again to win his from 30 and of the tandicap. Red Lighter, off course since who
will have be improve again to win his from 30 and of the tandicap.

RACELINE CHEPSTOW 101 201 TOWCESTER 102 202 103 203 120 220 MOTOR FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168 COURSE SPECIALISTS

CHEPSTOW: TRAINERS: ? Hobb CMEPSTOW: TRANSCERS: C TOUGH, 27 winners from 102 unities, 26.5%, J Mullins, 3 from 14, 21.4%, D Nicholson, 17 from 82, 20.7%, M Pips, 37 from 192, 19.3%, M Tweston-Dawles, 18 from 115, 15.7%; R Almer, 6 from 39, 15.4%, J King, 5 from 38, 13.2%.

38, 13.2% JOCKEYS: J Tuzzad, 11 winners from 25 indes, 44%, R Widger, 3 from 8, 37.5%, D O'Sulliven, 6 from 27, 22.2%; R Durwoody, 18 from 101, 18.8%; T J Murphy, 7 from 41, 17.1%; P Holley, 3 from 18, 15.9%; A Thomson, 7 from 60, 11.7%, C Maudie, 7 from 69, 10.3%.

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs. D Robinson) B Helf 12-0 B West (7) 88 CD-course and distance winner BF-beaten taxourite in latest race). Going on which horse has worn (F-firm, good to litm, hand G-good, S-eoth, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets Trainer. Age and weight: Rider plus any allowance. Time-keeper's speed rating Pacecard number. Surfigure form (F-left. Processor Institute Commission of the Processor Institute Commission of the Processor of the Commission of the Commissio

3.20 WILLIAM HILL CHASE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP) (£7,003: 3m) (8 runners)



1998: PLAPACK LAD 9-10-3 C Lievellyn (7-1) M Treston-Dawer, 9 ran GHIZZLY BEAR can regain the winning thread after talking six out behind Step on Eyru at Haydock on the talking six out behind Step on Eyru at Haydock on the talking six out behind Step on Eyru at Haydock on the talking six out behind Step on Eyru at Haydock on the talking six upgrade when completing a double for Sam Stronge, his rider today, with a 28-length heating by the strong of Shades at Lingdjeck. A 90 higher mark leday looks talk Kneght's Crest is a strong talking type who should not be long in actiong to his how victories has season. He poor showing on his permittents start followed a two-month absence and he was back to his best when classing home Country Ston, pair clear, at Sandown less time. Mr Payful talkied to involve the leaders when left a poor third to Ambiesche at Wincanton on his lest start and makes less appeal than Kilmington, who was returned in one is no-most break lest fine and videos stable has now started to find some form. Editing cover the season of the season of the reappearance. Northern Hide was talked oil when latting five our behind Natysari at Wincanton on his seasonal bow 1998: PLAPJACK LAD 9-10-3 C Lieucitys (7-1) W Twiston-Damer, 9 cap

3.50 COURT SELLING HURDLE (\$1,504: 2m 118yd) (11 runners)



Chehenham seems a long white app when considering the memis of this materiald bunch. Win The Toss would have obvious prespects if able to reproduce the form he showed behind Grecian Dart (besten 23 lengths has loved staying on) at Kemphin seriler this season but he's unreliable and has been oil course more than there months. WiSth SEA holded lamely less three at Tamiton hat, prior to Paul, hed won a selling hendican at Master Rasen and run creditably in deleat. He will get lew better opportunities to regain the evinting thread. Head Gardener ran respectably behand Pridiaenoul Fuggle over course and distance three weeks ago although he looked desperately short of pace in the chesing stages. Hotipour Street has a pour wins to runs ratio and would argusty prefer a stiller set of reaming. The form figures of Capitain Morris speak for themselves but he may still prove the pace of the rest.

4.20 JOHN EXELÜ MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (£1,919: 3m) (13 runners)



Desperate will be a popular choice after cleaning induces with the property of the property of

4.50 WHIPPERS IN STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,856: 2m 110yd) (16 runners)



BETTING: 9-4 Base Dream, 5-2 Aminos Bold, 11-4 Bepts Agent, 5-1 K.H Pyrs, 14-1 Phys Afield, 20-1 Gibber Webb: 23-11 Hop Destry, Marco Pero, Worldy Boy, Creeks, Creaks, Caste Pero, Marco Land, Repose Carpet man, Measuretess, 50-1 others.

Both Brave Dream (13-2 from 10-1) and ANTIQUE SCLD (11-2 from 20-1) attracted support when making their debuts (11-2 from 20-1) attracted support when making their debuts similar promise in high separated by three-persisters of a length and beatter around 14 lengths by the womer, improvement can be expected for the expectence, with preference for the remainder when onget three lengths that to 10 the Holl Has Moved at Tourester, should again play a leading role, while K. H. Plyer thy Canden Youn) and Plan Afteld (by Phantante) represent stables to be respected in this type of race.

Windsor lost to weather

THE meeting scheduled for Windsor tomorrow has become the first casualty of the turf Flat season. After an inspection yesterday afternoon, course officials were forced to abandon because of water-

Hugo Bevan, the clerk of the course, said: "The meeting has been abandoned because of a number of heavy patches which are still very wet and will not dry out between now and Thursday even if it did not rain - and more rain is forecast. The area that gave us most concern is just past the winning post and is one that cannot be dolled off."

Doncaster, which traditionally holds the first meeting of the Flat season, will now have the stage to itself.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TOWESTER TRANSFER Mas & Bailey, 10 min-ters from 15 runners, 66 Ps., Mcc, V Williams, 10 instr 30, 29 4%. R. Basier, 13 inno 48, 27.1%; Mas P Sty, 5 from 20, 25 0%, Mas 2 Devision, 3 horn 14, 21.4%; N Henderson, 7 from 34, 205%; J Det 8 from 40, 28 Ps. JONEYS B Pollock, 7 warrers from 13 rides, 53.8%, M Fingerald, 13 from 61, 21.3%, D Lesty, B Aon 32, 18.8%, 6 Bastley, 6 from 37, 16.2%, R Cuest, 5 from 33, 15.2%, P Hide, 5 from 33, 12.8%, W Attachot, 11 from 68, 12.5%, Drity gostilers.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: KNIGHT'S CREST (3.20 Chepstow)

TOWCESTER ROB WRIGHT

2.10 Goldengirimichelle, 2.40 Soloman, 3.10 Wortcostalotbut, 3.40 Scotby, 4.10 Billy Nomaite. 4.40 Broad Steane. 5.10 Borotown Lord. Carl Evans: 4.40 Broad Steane. GOING: CHASES: GOOD; HURDLES: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

2.10 rosemary boardman amateur riders

SELLING HURDLE (£1,674: 2m) (12 runners) 9-4 Goldengirknichelle. 7-2 in Good Order, 5-1 Rosk, 7-1 Acond Robin, 8-1 olivers.

2.40 TUSCARORA NOVICES CHASE (\$3,581; 2m 1/20)(6) 1 -123 ROYAL TOAST 77 (D.S.) N Hendessen 7-11-8 M A Floquenid 89 2 0°59 CLASSIC BANGE 16 (D.S.) H Maners 9-11-2 ... 8 Cornar -3 -000 100 THE JUNES 3/ J Galvey 9-11-2 ... L ASQU -4 -04 RODOERS 47 J Glover 6-11-2 ... R Garest -3 -4-3 UP COMPAN 30 (D.G.) J Giroth 6-11-2 ... P Hide 1198 6 232U WINSFORD HELL 38 (2F,D.F.G.) I Williams 6-11-2 B Proved 53

6-4 Renal Tozal, 2-1 Solomen, 5-2 Winsford Hill, 16-1 Rockers, 33-1 piters. 3.10 TOWCESTER FOR CONFERENCES HANDICAP

HURDLE (£2,960; 2m 5f) (10)

3.40 TOTE HANDICAP CHASE (£6,905: 3m 1f) (8)

2-1 Scotty, 9-2 Spring Gale, 6-1 Take My Side, 13-2 Lay II Off, 7-1 others.

4.10 HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,618: 2m) (16)



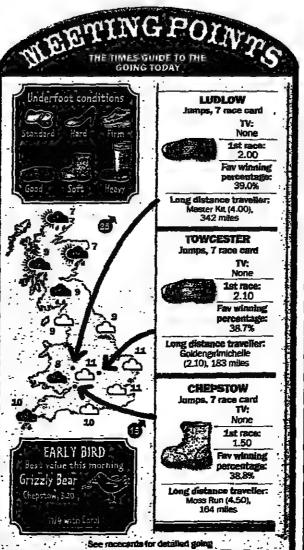
4.40 LARRY CONNELL MEMORIAL HUNTERS

CHASE (£1,277: 3m 1f) (13)

7-4 Avestar, 9-2 Bally Riol. 5-1 Broad Steams, 6-1 My Best Man, 10-1 others. 5.10 BBC MATCH OF THE DAY LIVE EVENT NH

NOVICES HURDLE (£2,740: 2m 5l) (17)





2.20 (2m 4f 110yd hdie) 1, Westerton (P Niven, 15-2), 2, Mohattia (B-15 fav), 3, Sax-on Victory (12-1), 8 ran 5, 121, J Fiz/Ger adt, Yole, 88.90, \$1.50, \$1.20, \$1.10. DF: £3.40, CSF, £10.40.

2.50 (2m hole) 1, Legend Of Love (O McPhat, 4-5 lay, Tenekaeper's top rat-ing), 2, Siena (33-1); 3, Horzontai (68-1) 10 ran. 4l, 2l. B Llewellyn Tote: £1 60; £1 20, £7.80, £4.80. DF. £19.90 CSF; £29.01

E29 01 3.20 (2m 4f ch) 1 Tremailt (7 Jenks, 7-4 lav), 2, Builder Boy (7-1), 3, Emperors Magic (5-1), 7 ran, 281, 81, 7 George Tote: 52.40, 51.90, 52.20 DF, 52.10 CSF, C10 84

2.56 (Sm 110yd hole) 1, Maester Rastus (A Maguire, 4-5 hw); 2, Freddie Muck (5-1, 3, Cool Spring (10-1) 5 ran 15, 211 Mrs S Wilsams, Tote: £1 70, £1.10, £1 70, DF, £2 80 CSF: £4.50. 4.20 (2m 2l ch) 1. The Bens (A Dobbin, 13-2), 2, Kentucky Gold (9-2); 3, Deel Quay (20-1), High Island 8-11 lav 6 ran 17, dec. D McCain at Cholmodeley, Tole, 55 10, C1.80 E2 10 DF, 58 70, CSF; 230.13. 4.50 (2m holle) 1, Patras (N Homocks, 1-5 fav), 2, Cariad Cymru (11-2), 3, Side On (16-1), 4 ran, 31, 21, M Harmond Tote £1 30, DF £1.30 CSF £1.91. 5-20 (2m fiet) 1, Millardy Ama (R Massey, 7-2 (av), 2, Blackwater Bay (5-1); 3, Roman Uprast (6-1) 9 ran NR Lady Chatley 41, 34 D Nacholson Tote: 54 10, E1.20, E1.50, 52.20, DF £12.50 CSF £17.37 Placepot: \$26.90 Quadpot: \$29.40

Exeter Geling: good

2.03 (2m 11 110yd ndle) 1. Game Rinpoche (J Frost, 8-4), 2. Goldenacres (6-1); 3. Chiles (16-1). Honey Dance 2-1 lav. 10 ran. NB: Henbury Princess. 3, 12. R Frost, Tote: C3 10; C1.10, £1.90, £6.20. DF-£6.10. CSF, £16.33 2.30 (2m 7) note) 1, Be in Spo

2.30 (2m 71 hole) 1, 8e in Spece (G Supple, 12-1); 2, Longstone Lad (9-1); 3, Twested Logic (20-1); 4, Welburn Boy (6-1 lav), 18 ran. 51, 124 Mrs P Ford. Tote, 519,20; 65-40, 62 10, 511,00, 61,10, 16- £101.50 CSP; 290 16. Tricest £1,970.08.
3.00 (2m 71 10yd ch) 1, Nortandle (7 Widger, 7-2), 2, Country Store (2-1 lav); 3, Glenum (25-1), 15 ran. 114, 27 P Holobs, Tote: £5 00; £1 40, £1 40, £5 80. 0F. 55.50. Thickness £147.44.

3.30 (2m 3i ch) 1, Village King (R Duh-woody, 7-4 fav): 2, Gratom (6-1); 3, Nor-merange (12-1): 10 ran. 21, 91. P Hobbs Tole. 02.30. 07.60, 02.30, 02.70. DF; 02.00 CSF. 010.00 (10.00 pc) 4.00 (3m 2f ch) 1, Henry Brace (Mr 0 Marsell, 9-2); 2, Senti Joseph (10-1), 3, Toskaro (6-1) Comedy Gayle 7-2 fav 11 (2m 1, 2 f Mes 7 McCumch, Tote 9-13, 02-20 12-60, E2-40 DF 126-30, CSF 1940-96. 4.30 (2m ii 110yd hdie) 1, Laftah (A P Mc-Coy, 5-2); 2, Northern Drums (4-1); 3, Ala-bad (10-1) Pot Black (Ur (8th) 94 lav 11 ran, 11, 3½ M Pipe Tote: 22 70, £1 50 £1 20, £2 20. DF, £5.00, CSF £12 46 Tn-tast, £53 07 Jackpot: £23,364.90 (part won; pool of £6,910.75 carried forward to Chepstow

today). Placapot: £98.60. Quadpot: £8.50. Fontwell Park

Goints: good to firm 2.10 (2m 21 110)rd hrite) 1, Machiannelli (M Battislor, 9-2): 2, Fabulous Middo (4-1) inv., 3, Fit To Bust (10-1) Studio Thrity (4h)r) 4-1 it law 11 ran NR: Run Basard. M. 8. G. I. Moone Toter 55 67: 2250, 51: 90: 2380 DF : 620.80, CSF: \$20.81 Threat C159.63,

2.40 (2m 2l ch) 1, Super Mac (f Das-combe, 9-2); 2, Insh Froic (4-1 lav), 3, Head For Heaven (11-2), 11 ran, NR Smarl Guy Hd, 41, P Hedger, Iole, 12-20 12.00, 11-70, 12.80, DF, 12.320, CSF; 120.82 Tricast; 193.48.

2.10 (2m 2l 110)d ch) 1, Cherokee Boy U Tozard, 6-1), 2, Colonel Coll (11-8 g-lay) 3, Kitoran Bey (12-1), Jobsegoodun 11-8 ji-lav 4 san, MF Heidqueonolichte, MFMiler, 12, das. 8 Ryali, Toler £5.00 DF £4.30 CSF £13.20

24.0 Car 21 10 pt hole 1 1. Keery's Oets M A Fitzgersid, 7-2): 2. Smirt (7-4 tav), 3. Powder Hound (2-1). 15 ran. NP: Nicoly Re-based. Sh hd, 5. P Hedger Tole: 54.30. C1 10, E1 40, E1 60. DF E4 10. CSF: 59.54. 4.10 (2m 3f ch) 1, Verde Luna (Mr A Evans, 12-1); 2 Hafham Tam (11-1), 3, De-light (12-1). Warren Boy 2-1 fav. 13 ran Mr Lord Bekmorte, 8, 14 R Smith, Tota 59, 10, 12-25), 13-20, 13-20 DF 154 70 CSF, 5121 04.

A.40 (2m 6) 110yd hole) 1, Kingadown Trix (J Goldstein, 10-1); 2, Fiscol (2-1 fav), 3, Two To Tango (9-1), 13 ran, NR, Charlie Banker, Sent, Joe. 114, hot Smith, Tote £14.90; £2.80, £1.90, £3.60. OF 560.20 CSF: £33.25, Trices, £137.32.

Matt Dickinson finds the Tottenham midfield player in combative mood

Supple's cleared in drugs appeal

BY JOHN GOODBODY

A BRITISH weightlifting champion is considering legal action for financial compensation after being cleared of an alleged drugs offence that caused him to be suspended from sport for seven months and thereby miss the 1998

Commonwealth Games. Paul Supple, from Manchester, who would have been among the favourites for the under-94kg gold medal in Kuala Lumpur, has struggled to clear his name with money raised by his Wythenshawe

Supple recorded a testosterone/epitestosterone (T/E) ratio above 6-1 in an out-of-competition test last August and was then left out of the England team for the Games. This adverse finding indicated that a doping offence may have been committed, but Supple's solicitors said further investigations would have to take place before a positive result could be declared. An appeals panel of the Brit-ish Amateur Weightlifters Association (BAWLA) has now ruled that it could not be satisfied that an offence had been committed since there was no evidence that these investigations and/or an examination had been carried out.

Supple had always said that he had never taken drugs. His solicitor, Fraser Reid, of Rus-sell Jones Walker, said yesterday: "There were several plausible reasons which we would have put forward to explain the T/E ratio. Paul has a naturaily low epitestosterone level. He had also drunk two pints of beer to give the urine sample and this may well have increased his testosterone level."

The taking of testosterone, the male hormone, which helps to build muscle weight and aids recovery, is outlawed under guidelines of the medical committee of the International Olympic Committee.

However, there is controversy over the ratio. In 1995, Diane Modahl, the former Commonwealth 800 metres champion, successfuly argued that degradation of her sample had increased the amount of testosterone, while Mary Slaney, the American runner. is in the middle of a dispute with the athletics authorities over her high T/E reading.

The United Kingdom Sports Council, which oversaw the collection of samples. vesterday declined to comment until it had received official confirmation from BAWLA.

☐ Two months after Dougie Walker, the European 200 metres champion, was revealed to have failed a drugs test, a panel sat yesterday to determine whether he has a case to answer. A spokesperson for UK Athletics, the governing body of the sport in Britain, said it would announce the decision as soon it had been communicated to Walker, who denies taking a banned drug.

Sherwood takes to national stage im Sherwood de-clined to criticise Glenn Hoddle yester-

day, perhaps aware that he had already used his best line. The only way I'll ever get noticed," Sherwood once said, "is if I turn up and juggle the ball in his back garden. Kevin Keegan needed no back-yard auditions to select the 30-year-old and now. rather unexpectedly, the Tottenham Hotspur player is

contemplating the increasing likelihood of a first cap. With Batty and Ince unavailable through illness and suspen-sion, the England coach is in need of a robust midfield player and Sherwood has never required a call to arms from his country to put his boot in where it hurts. For such an important

match, it would be a daunting elevation for one of only two uncapped players in the squad Ray Parlour being the other. Sherwood has been called up only once before, by Terry Venables in February 1995 against Ireland in Dublin, but any hopes of coming off the bench disappeared amid a hail of missiles. The match was abandoned and so, in Sherwood's mind, was any hope of an international career

"I've not looked at any of the squads for ages and I didn't look this time," he said. "I built myself up so many times before and it never happened so it got to the stage where I didn't want to get upset about it. I am in the squad now but I honestly have not thought about playing yet."

Sherwood's case may be

helped by Keegan's equivocal comments yesterday on David Beckham's best position. Like most observers, the England coach believes that the Manchester United player

SCOTLAND are reluctant

adventurers, forced to set off

into unknown territory. The

misgivings about unfamiliar

surroundings are obvious.

Faced with a squad that lacks

many of the established names, supporters have been slow to buy tickets for the Euro-

pean championship qualify-ing match against Bosnia-Herzegovina at Ibrox on Satur-

day, even if the box office will be brisker for the visit of the

Czech Republic to Celtic Park

Change was inevitable, given that Scotland took an

Cup finals. Colin Hendry, a

mainstay of the side, is

injured, but the Rangers cen-

tre half has confirmed that he

will retire from international

football next year. If Craig

Brown, the Scotland manager.

always knew that he would

need to undertake some recon-

entirely within his control.

struction, the process is not

The retiremement of Jim

Leighton and the injuries to

Hendry, John Collins and

Kevin Gallacher have stripped

worldliness from every area of

id to the World

next Wednesday.



Sherwood is looking forward to making up for lost time should Keegan select him against Poland on Saturday

will eventually hold centre stage, but he hinted that Europe's best crosser, as Alex Ferguson described Beckharn recently, may be asked to slice apart Poland from wide right. future he should be more involved lin the middle of midfieldl," Keegan said. "May-

Brown relies on change

By Kevin McCarra

the team. "When we were send-

ing out good. experienced pros," Brown said, " we knew that no one could give them a

hard time. Now, we don't quite know what we will get, but we do have talented young

players who can grow up quickly."

ston, of Sunderland, and Cal-

lum Davidson, of Blackburn

Rovers, have already earned

caps, but instead of indulging

Hendry: mainstay

BASKETBALL

BOWLS

Players such as Allan John-

"I think at some point in the

be in the future he should be more central, but he is in such good form wide for United that he could play anywhere." Either way, Sherwood has an above evens chance of start-

ing because none of his rivals Paul Scholes, Jamie Redknapp, Pariour or Darren

them, Scotland may soon have to depend on them. Brown notes Niall Quinn's regular

goalscoring in the Nationwide League first division, ascribes

it to the service that Johnston

provides and goes on to hope that the winger's fast, flat crosses will sustain Scotland against a hulking Bosnia

Barry Ferguson, the Rang-

ers midfield player, has with-drawn from the squad with a groin strain that has proved

chronic. A further visit to a spe-

cialist is required and he may

not play in many of Rangers'

Where Scotland are con-

cerned, there might not have

been much scope, in any case, for coltishness in midfield. It is

the one department in which

He insists on being celebra-

tory about Gary McAllister,

34, who is returning to interna-

tional action after a serious

knee injury. "He is one of the

most outstanding midfield

players in the Premiership,

Brown said, demonstrating

that he still prizes his remain-

Brown is well served.

lefence.

this week because of a groin injury — are natural holding midfield players. And surely not even the famously cavalier Keegan will start the match

without one of those. In the case of Parlour and Sherwood, Keegan must decide whether to risk one, or even two, non-capped players

E LUTON TOWN, former

winners of the League Cup

vesterday followed such

the club was placed in

famous names as

and owners of a plastic pitch.

Portsmouth, Crystal Palace

and Millwall into the hands

of waiting accountants when

receivership.
Peter Phillips and John
Keily, of Buchler Phillips —

the firm which is also to be

were put in charge last

Nationwide League second

decision by Cliff Bassett, a

Graham Stuart, 28, the

division game with Reading.

local businessman, to call in

a £2.1 million loan to the club.

former Cheisea, Everton and

England Under-21 forward,

yesterday became Chariton

million move from Sheffield

Everton hope to complete

the signing of Kevin Campbell, the former Arsenal

Athletic's record signing when he completed a £1.1

night, just before the

made administrators of Palace

in a European championship qualifier of such huge import, but he made positive noises about the pair yesterday, as he did about everyone, even the

"It would be nice for someone playing their first game in midfield to look alongside them and see somebody with

Luton call in receivers

FOOTBALL

IN BRIEF

and Nottingham Forest

forward, on loan from

Trabzonspor, of Turkey,

M Liverpool will complete the signing of Erik Meijer, the 29-year-old Bayer

Leverkusen forward, on a

free transfer under the

Bosman ruling in the

30 or 40 caps." Keegan said.
"That is what I would have wanted when I was winning my first cap. But with the two players you have mentioned — Sherwood and Parlour — they are both in great form and no one is playing better in their positions.

Keegan will have few concerns about Sherwood's temperament. He is not the shy type, as was shown by his shy type, as was shown by his response to the question yesterday about whether, since moving from Blackburn Rovers to Tottenham Hotspur, he was missing captaincy. "I think it is a bit early for me to captain England," he said with a mischievous grin, "but maybe in the future." maybe in the future.

I think it is a bit early to lead England, but maybe in the future?

The £4 million move to White Hart Lane, and the management of the frightening George Graham, has seen Sherwood back to his best form since the season he captained Blackburn to the FA Carling Premiership title in 1995. The team disintegrated, managers came and were sacked, and Sherwood had a serious contretemps with Roy

Hodgson.

Now, after missing the Worthington Cup final on Sunday because he was cup-fied, he can look forward to an FA Cup semi-final for Spurs' against Newcastle United and the chance to get to Wembley. It is not improbable that he will have already appeared under the Twin Towers by then.

Uefa yesterday rejected an appeal from the Pootball

Association of Wales against

the decision to stage the Euro

Denmark in June at Antield.

Wales had wanted the match

to be played in Cardiff but

Europe's governing body ruled last month that it

should remain at Anfield.

2000 qualifier against

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN JACKSONVILLE

IN THE heat of a Florida afternoon, Severiano Ballesteros was one of three famous golfers to be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Monday, a simple, televised ceremony that took place in front of an audience of several hundred and a sound system that kept breaking down.
As the sun beat down words

of praise rang out for Balles-teros, who was lauded for his skills in winning five major championships and more than 70 victories worldwide.

Some of the great and good in golf were in Jacksonville for the ceremony — Kathy Whitworth, Louise Suggs and Carol Mann to applaud the induction of Amy Alcott — as well as Sam Snead, with his trademark straw hat. Byron Neison and Paul Runyon, who, aged 90, had played a round on each of the three previous days. Roberto de Vicenzo, the Argentinian who won the Open in 1967, introduced Ballesteros.

Speaking in broken English, de Vicenzo said: "Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Ballesterus which pronounced as Ballestero because he is the best player

There was much applause and lionising of Ballesteros, who was there with Carmen, his wife, and their three children. "There have been two phases in golf," de Vicenzo confioned. "The one before Amold Palmer in America and before Ballesteros in Europe." Then de Vicenzo made a reference that must have cut Ballesteros to the quick. "I hope he will regain his form," de Vicenzo said. "I

wun the Open at 44. He is 42." The living of the ceremony

Colin Calderwood, the Scotland defender, yesterday moved from Totteham Hotspor to Aston Villa for out," he said. £225,000 on a contract until the end of next season.

III Jim Smith, the Deiby County manager, has failed in an attempt to sign Seth Johnson, the 20-year-old Crewe Alexandra midfield player, before the transfer deadline tomorrow but may try again in the summer.

■ Dundee have allowed Lain Anderson, their Scotland Under-21 winger, to join Chelsea for trials this week in a move that could lead to a permanent move to Stamford Bridge.

was that it came not when Ballesteros was at his peak, but at a time when his golf is at its worst for 30 years. It would take a miracle for him to win the Open and he knows it. The back that used to bother him is better, but now he has tendinitis in his left cibow, a problem with his left shoulder and water on his right knee. "After ten or 12 holes I start limping and losing my strength and by the time I get back to the hotel I am worn

Ballesteros said the last time he played well was in ish Open. "I have had a lot of glory days," Ballesteros said. "If I continue playing it will be because I love the game of golf. Even in a bad round I hit some great shots."

increasingly, his role is that of an ambassador, a father figure, the man who captained Europe to victory when the Ryder Cup was held in Spain. He is also concentrating on his family - his older son is showing promise. "All I have taught him is the correct grip," Ballesteros said.

Scotland lined up by **Hawes and Price**

UNITED Kingdom countries topped all four league tables with one round-robin match to play in the Atlantic Rim pairs and triples championships at Cape Town yesterday. With four more wins yester-

day, Scotland appear to have booked their place in the final of the triples, but have at least to draw with England today to qualify in the pairs. The group pairs encounter between Kath Hawes and Mary Price, of England, the defending champions, and Margaret Letham and Joyce Lindores, of Scotland, the Commonwealth Games champions, is essentially a knockout for a place in the gold medal play-off. Ann Sutherland and Rita

NEWCASTLE

vian city 🛚

_ BOMS

in Cape Town

Jones, of Wales, lead group A but are only one point clear of Lesly Hartwell and Hester Bekker, of South Africa, so they cannot afford to lose to them this morning.

In the triples, Margaret Johnston, back to her best, inspired her Irish trio to a vital 19-16 win over Lorna Trigwell. of South Africa, knocking the hosts off the top of the table. A win over Jersey today will put Ireland in the final, while Wales take on South Africa.

TRANSFER DEADLINE SIGNINGS LATEST! IVERPOOL ANNIELD CLEAROUT CONTINUES 804 STREKER SIGNING LATEST 805 CARSLEY REPLACEMENT CLOSE? 8228

COOKE DECISION DUE

STRACER EXITS LATEST

WOLVES DUTCH STRIKER TARGET UPDATE 884

From David Rhys Jones

CAPE TOWNS Sper Attantic Ritts George:
PRIN rought Pales: Group A: South Africa
bit Pales of Coup A: South Africa
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bit Canada and R. Jones; bit United States
S3-16, Group & England (K Heaves and M
Price) bit Canada 27-11; Namibia bit Seeziland 21-15, Guernsey (P Hearling and S
Cava) bit Spain 28-13, Scotland (M Lettram
and J Lindones) bit Argentine 24-14. Triplesc
Group & South Africa bit Holland 25-11; Neland (D McNaty, D Kane, M Johnston) bit Inland (D McNaty, D Kane, M Johnston) bit Inland (D McNaty, D Kane, M Johnston) bit Inland States 22-10.
Choppie, N Shaw) 16-13; Swizzland bit
Nembes 27-11, Spain bit Guernsey (J Marrie,
J Rose, J Finigan) 19-12; Soutland JJ Moran,
B Forsyth, S Gouriey) bit Argentine 22-12.
Shifth round: Pales Group & States
S6-12; Israel bit Holland IN-18, South Minca
bit Instand 27-14. Group B: Scotland bit
Nembes 22-15; Argentine bad with Spain
18-18, Canada bit Swizzland 23-19: England
Idea with Namibia 20-20. Triplesce Group &
Janes 29-16; Argentine bad with Spain
18-18, Canada bit Swizzland 23-19: England
Idea with Namibia 20-20. Triplesce Group &
Janes 29-11; brand It Holland IN-2 Inthand

18-18, Cemada ixt Swestland 23-19 England fed with Nerribia 20-20 Trifpless: Group Ac-Jersey br Walea 19-15 Zmbebwe ix Urbed States 23-10, Israel bit Holland 40-2, Insland to South Africa 19-16. Group B: Scotland bit Guennsey 20-16, Spain bit Argentins 28-8, Swestland bit Causnssy 20-16, Spain bit Argentins 28-8, Swestland bit Causnsey 20-16, Spain bit Argentins 28-8, Swestland bit Causnsey 20-16, Spain bit Argentins 28-8, Swestland bit Namibe, 22-18. League positions (after six round robin matches) Pales Group A: 1, Wales; 2, South Africa, 3, Israely 6, Israel, 7, Shouth Africa, 3, Embather, 7, Spain, 8, Swestland, Trifpleac Group B: 1, Indiand 2, Spain, 6, Spain, 8, Swestland, Trifpleac Group B: 1, Indiand 2, Spain, 8, Swestland, Trifpleac Group B: 1, Israely 6, Israely 7, Israely 6, Israel, 7, United States, 8, Holland Group B: 1, Scotland: 2, Swestland, 3, England, 4, Spain; 5, Argenting, 8, Canada, 7, Narnibae, 8, Guernsey CRICKET Tri-nations tournament DEFENDER MOVE LATEST 816

802

813

Zimbabwe v Kenya DHAKA (Zimbabwe won tose): Zimbabwe beat Kenya by 64 runs. ZIMBABWE

FOR THE RECORD Total (5 wich, 50 overs) NATICINAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 90 Washington 85, New Jersey 106 Toronto 87, New York 71 Attanta 80; Dafes 93 Los An-PA Strang, AR Whittell and HH Olonga did not hall. 87, New York 17 Austral by Joseph Statements peles: Lakers 96, Houston 110 Sacraments 100, Mavaukse 115 Delroit 86, Phoena 89 Vancouver 84, Seattle 92 Philadelphia 76. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-105, 3-190, 4-192, 5-246, 6-248. BOWLING: Angrara 4-0-47-0; T Sui 10-0-81-1; Tikolo 10-0-44-1; Odoyo 10-0-40-2; Kenni 10-1-44-1; Oduntos 3-0-20-0, Shelkii 3-0-19-0.

ing veterans.

KENYA D Chundasuma Ibw b Otonga † K Oteno Ibw b Streek S Titolo c Olonga b G Flower M Odumbe at A Flower b G Fl Total (8 white, 50 overs) M Sui did not be... FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-3, 3-134, 4-150, 5-151, 6-155, 7-178, 8-187.

BOWLING: Otonge 4-0-27-1; Streek 8-0-24-1; A R Whittell 8-0-35-0; Streng 7-1-25-0; Vilgon 2-0-15-0; G Plower 10-0-32-4; Campbell 10-2-33-2; G J Whittall 3-0-18-0. Umprex P Maruel (Sri Lanka) and Y K Pamanwami (Inde).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL Gck-oft 7.30 unless stated Mationwicie League First division Huddersfield v Norwich (7.45) Forest Green v Kingstonian (7.45 Scottish League First division

DR MARTIENS LEAGUE: Southern divi-sions: Brackley Town v Raunds Town (7.45), St Leonards v Corby (7.45), Mid-land divisions: Cinderbod v Hirakley Unit-ed (7.45), Paget Rovers v Wichoch Town (7.45), Paget Rovers v Wichoch Town (7.45) Lagge Capt Sami-Rost, first lag-Bostan United v Sulton Coldisid. Bostan United v Sulton Coldised.

UNBISOND LEAGUE: Pirst division: Belger
Town v Trationd (7.45); Bractiond Pyric Averuse v Great Harwood. Curz: Fourth yound:
Hucknell Form v Farsity (46);

RYMMAN LEAGUE: Pirst division:
Croydon v Limindgo (7.45). Second division: Harlow v Hismel Hampstaad (7.45).
Third division: Southall v Croydon Althete:
(7.45).

(7.45)
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:
First division: Barrist v Northampton (2.0).
Charlton v Swindon (2.0). Colchester v
Brantford (2.0). Fulliam v Peterborough (2.0). Southernston v Brighton; Wimbledon
v Potsmouth, Wycombe v Wastond (2.0).
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Prevaler division:
Aston Villa v Preston (7.0). Notangham
Forest v League (7.0). First division: Barrislay v Bolan (7.0). Colcham v Port Vale (7.0).
Second division: Sociopar v Bradford (7.0); Wreatom v Shrewtony (7.0); Wroth v
Lincoln (7.0). Taird division: Barrington v
Halika (2.0); Hull v Wassel (2.0). Rochdele v
Wigen (2.0), Sounthorps v Bury (7.0).
LEAGUE OF WALES: Carmarthen Town v cunthorps v Bury (7.0). LEAGUE OF WALES: Ca COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE

ARNOTT RESURANCE NORTH
LEAGUE: First division: Perinth v
Bedington Terms.
SCHEWIFK DRECT LEAGUE: Premier
division: Yeovi TR v Bridgort (7.45).
MINIERVA. SPANTAN SOUTH
MEDLARDS LEAGUE: Premier division:
Toddington v Barhangsde (7.45).
HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Forres Mechanics v
Cove, Rothes v Buckle Triscle.
BANGCY'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier
division: Busistentime v Thirdair, Lye Town
v Gorral Afrietic, Smellmark Rangers v
Luciow Town; Statord Town v Bandey Hill
Town.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Pirst division: Faretern v Portsmouth; Hemble ASSC v East Cower, Laegue Corr. Semi-4-net, second leg: Eastleigh (D) v Cowes. Sports (I)
(#4.SPORT UNITED COUNTES)
LEAGUE Premier division: Yadey v S and I Cotty.
UNAITE SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE
First division: Eastburne Youn v
Portlaid (7.49; Hassocia v Saldisan.
NORTHEEN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUEPremier division: Hollan v Buron.

MORTH WESTERN TRAINS; division: Luck CSOB v Newcastle To. Height Town v Saford. RUGBY LINION WELSH LEAGUE: First division Trearchy v Blackwood (7.0). ATB LEAGUE: Second division: Dungan POR V MEIOTE (? (1). BUSA CHAMPION non v Malone († 0). BUSA CHAMPIONSHIP: Mente final: Swanses v St Mary's, London (Twicken-liam, 3.0) Women's final: Loughborough v Catard (Twickenhare, 12.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Rochdale v Keighley (7.30). OTHER SPORT

TOUR MATCH: St John's, Antique: Australians 303 (J.L. Langer 134; C.L. Hooper 5-63; and 263-8 dec., (A.T. G. Elliot. 115; Hooper 4-40); West Index A 102 and 310 (Hooper 102, S.C. Williams 50; A.C. Dele

Campbell: Everton-bound

FOOTBALL . ARGENTINE LEAGUE Gimnasia Espirita 7 Gimnasia da Jujuy 5."

ICE HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Montred 1 Stn Jose 1; Tampe Bay 6 New York Reng-ers 3; Toronto 1 Philadelphia 3; St Louis 5 Carolina 2; Edmonton 2 Calgary 2.

RACKETS

OUTER'S CLUE: Public schools championships: Secon GUEDN'S CLUBS. Public schools dos-bles championshipe: Second petrs: Quarter-dinates: Torbitdge II (S Uph and N Exuet) bt Chelterham III (G McEvan and II July) 15-9, 15-4, 15-7; Malvern III (R Natie and T Hussisom) bt Winchester II (B Walter and J Willern) 12-15, 15-9, 15-8, 13-16, 8-15, 17-14, 15-10; Malvern II (J Koy-hard and J Aldinson) 16-17, 15-11, 3-15, 15-8, 15-8, 17-15; Harrow II (A Andiet and O Canver) bt Rackey II (S Andrews and G Canver) bt Rackey II (S Andrews and G Canvern) bt Rackey II (S Andrews and G Lancy and J Belley) 15-9, 15-8, 15-8; Wellengton (M Briers and P Burrougha) bt Rackey (P Madcaratic-Charington and C Mo-ley) 15-3, 6-15, 15-10, 11-15, 15-5 Junior Cohar. Counter-finates Bon (E Western) and I Nickey bt Melwern (J Beter red L Tul-Coltan: Character-Granise: Elon (C. Watson and T. McCall) of Melwern (J. Balver and L. Tud-My) 15-6, 10-15, 15-11, 15-7; Marthorough (C. Goodman-Smath and B. Stoop) bt. Rad-ley (M. Yorke-Long and K. Myers) 15-3, 16-17, 14-17, 15-12, 15-10.

CO KILDARIE: Benson and Hedges Inst Masters: First round: J White (Eng) bt M Williams (Wates) 6-2. TENNIS

SNOOKER

ICEY BISCATNE, Florider Lipton chempionshipse Menr Fourth round: S Grossen (Fr) bt C Moyè (Sp) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6; R Vrajcek (Vehi) bt M Sasin (Russ) 6-3, 6-1; F Calvet (Sp) bt S Spackes (US) 7-5, 6-4, N Kiefer (Cer) bt G Rusedeld (SS) 7-5, 4-6, 6-4; N Kiefer (Cer) bt G Rusedeld (SS) 8-4, 6-4; D Hibary (Spvake) bt M Rose (Chie) 8-2, 6-0. Women: Third resend: M Perce (Cri) bt Y Ruser Pascual (Sp) 6-1, 6-1; J Rovoina (Ca) 6t N Dechy (Fr) 5-7, 6-2, 6-3; V Williams (US) N Dechy (Fr) 5-7, 6-2, 6-3; V Williams (US) K Zusege (Co) 6-3, 6-4. Fourth round: M Hingle (Switz) bt M Weingerther 6-0, 6-2, S Graf (Ger) bt N Zusege (Gels) 6-2, 8-4.

Salter switches to Broncos again

rejoined London Broncos from the ailing West Hartiepool rugby union club after six months, but he has little time to adjust before the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final against Castleford Tigers at Headingley on Saturday. The former Great Britain

Academy forward is among the substitutes. Dan Stains, the London coach, has been forced to push two second-row forwards. Steele Retchless and Shane Millard, into the front row after injuries to the regular props, Grant Young and Darren Bradstreet.
After two seasons with the Broncos, Salter failed to settle

at West Hartlepool, where he operated mainly as a flanker. I'm looking forward to seeing him in action," Stains said. We're all excited about his decision to return." Castleford's injury worries have eased in terms of their

pack, with Dean Sampson and Aaron Raper, their influential hooker, both fit to play, although the medial-ligament injury to Danny Orr is thought unlikely to heal, despite the inclusion of the stand-off half in their squad. Paul Davidson, the St Helens forward, is suspended for the JJB Super League games with Wigan Warriors and Bradford Bulls over Easter after the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee found him guilty of elbowing Craig Wilson, of

By Christopher Irvine Gateshead Thunder, in the match last Sunday.

Andy Gregory, the Salford Reds coach, could find his future decided for him by an internal investigation into criticisms of his players, whom he described as an "absolute disgrace" after the side's defeat by Wakefield Trinity. A statement from the club said: 'The directors were dis-

appointed with Andy's action and felt that his comments were not in the best interests of the club. This was not the first occurrence of its kind and the matter will now be the subject of an internal disciplinary procedure,"



Ballesteros feels the heat in the Hall of Fame

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Williams claims referees may . spoil World Cup

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

of Rugby World Cup Ltd (RWC), gave warning yester-day that the global tournament to be played in Britain, Ireland and Prance this autumn could be spoilt by over-

In doing so, however, Williams goes against the opinion expressed by leading administrators in the northern hemisphere that standards are not only improving, they are becoming uniform.

Rugby union has always adured differing interpretams by referees, depending am which hemisphere they me. This season, however, th the International Rugby ard (IRB) demanding that eir leading officials adhere o the board's charter pubished two years ago, there has been a consistency of approach. This was never

better illustrated than on Saturday, when England played

The match was handled by Colin Hawke, from New Zea-land, in the first half and by Jim Fleming, of Scotland, in the second after Hawke tore a muscle. There was no obvious change and Clive Woodward, the England coach, said: "For the first time there is uniformity. The referees are all following the charter."

However, Williams, the pug nacious Australian, has laid the blame for the indifferent quality of the 1999 Super 12 tournament at the feet of referees. "The game has degenerated as a spectacle this season and if it flows on to the World Cup, it will be disastrous," he said. "Games are being decided by referees, not players. I've seen it in the Five Nations as

Bracken and Rees suffer on sidelines

By DAVID HANDS

1 TRIO of international packs will be unavailable for he final weekend of the Five Nations Championship next month. England will be without Kyran Bracken and David Rees for their grand-slam decider against Wales at Wembley on April II. and David Humphreys will miss Ireland's non-championship match with Italy in Dublin 24 bours earlier hours earlier.

Saracens confirmed yesterday that Bracken, who has agreed a new three-year. contract with the club, is unlikely to be fit again until May after sustaining damage to a medial ligament against France last Saturday. Rees, the Sale wing, is looking at a similar time-frame with an ankle injury while Hum-phreys, the Ulster fly half, injured a tendon in his hand early in Ireland's game with

Scotland and will be absentfor at least eight weeks. All three players must now

be looking to recover in time to travel to Australia with their respective national squads in May. England go into World Cup camp in Queensland for a month. ending with games against Australian Barbarians and Australia, while Ireland have a four-match tour, including two internationals.

Ticket sales for the Wales-England game at Wembley have soared after the Welsh success against France and Italy this month. "We are looking at a self-out." Lyn Davies, the Welsh Rugby Union spokesman, said. There are little more than 6,000 tickets left at the 79,000-capacity stadium, which Wales are using while Cardiff Arms Park is being rebuilt.

stuff is nonsense. There has to be a degree of discretion." His remarks will not win friends. The Super 12 seems to have taken on an approach different in tenor not only northern-hemisphere club rugby but, significantly, different also from international rugby whether played in the

Williams will chair a meeting of RWC directors in Buenos Aires next month that precedes the annual meeting of the IRB. His views contrast with the perceived success of this year's Five Nations, which has included spectacular matches between France and Wales in Paris (also handled by Fleming) and between Scotland and Ireland in Edinburgh (refereed by Derek Bevan, of Wales).

north or the south.

"My interest is to ensure the World Cup is the best one we have staged," Williams said. "We already have the most successful financial tournament but we don't want a festival of whistle-blowing, we want a festival of rugby."

The point at issue here, how-

ever, is that skill levels in the northern hemisphere have now crept much closer to those of the south, who have won the three previous World Cups. They have done so on the back of defensive performances that, in the case of England, have taken them to the verge of a grand slam but also on the back of changes in attitude that have helped the resurgence of Scotland and Wales, consistent refereeing has sure consistent refereeing has surely done something to help such developments.

☐ The cull of Rugby Pootball Union officials that started earlier this year will claim anothsteps down as administrative secretary in July. Godfrey, 58, has occupied the post for 12 years but now joins other lead-ing figures such as Don Rutherford, Richard Field and David Fison who have gone or are going after economies made by Francis Baron, the



Cox captures festive spirit

THE Shell UK national schools sevens celebrated its diamond jubilee with a

suitabioni judice with a suitably sparkling final day to the Festival tournament at Rosslyn Park yesterday.

Wellington College — who eventually prevailed 12-10 in a tight final — and Christ College Process, produced some lege, Brecon, produced some scintillating moments as they blazed their respective trails to

the decisive meeting. Christ's were marshalled by the laconic creativity of Owen Williams, the Wales Under-18 centre and nephew of JPR Williams, while James Strong, the Wales schools full back, swept with menace. Rupert Bentley-Smith, the

flyer on the wing and another ternational, benefited with a

deluge of tries over the course of the day. of the day.

However, the star of the show was little Dave Cox, the Wellington and Wales Schools fly half, who is earmarked for a place in the Wellington and Schools fly half, who is earmarked for a place in the Schools fly half. Wales development squad. His hanging restarts were worth a day off school in themselves, but it was his running with ball in hand that proved

to be too much for any of the defences. He ran rings around the powerful physical athletes of Trent College in the semi-finals and his solo break early in the second half of the final proved to be the pivotal point of the match. It had been a tight affair,

with Williams scoring an early try for Christ's, before Angus Moneur replied for Wellington. Cox's conversion gave the Berkshire college a two-point advantage at the break and, ultimately, that proved to be the difference. Williams could not convert a last set by Strong for Christ's late try by Strong for Christ's and Wellington were able to collect the Festival trophy from Rob Howley and Rob Wainwright.
SCORIERS: Wellington College: Tries: Monaus (Smin), Cox (12). Correspond Cox. Carlet College. Brecore Tries: Williams 27, Strong 130; SCORING SEQUENCE [Wellington first):

SCORING SEQUENCE (Promittion WIS):
04, 7-5, 12-10.
WELLINGTON COLLEGE: A Moncur, M
Boden, D Coa, M Wilcooks; J Tentone, D
Harmon, K Honstmann
CHRIST COLLEGE, BRECON: R BentleySwith, D Murray, O Williams, C Jones; J
Walden, J Strong, G Sneade (repr R Legge,

ICE SKATING

Dancers fail to dispel the gloom

FROM ANGELA COURT

FOR Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland, it may have been a moment to savour, but the sense of gloom as Great Britain's entry in the ice dancing event took their bows in the world figure skating championships here was unmistakable. Even before they had stepped on to the ice, British skating was coming to terms with what is already its worst performance at a world championships for many years, perhaps ever.

Britain has no woman or pair entered, added to which the men - Clive Shorten and Neil Wilson — failed to qualify for the final stages of their competitition. This situation is dismal, made worse by the fact that British skating was once highly regarded. In the late Seventies and

early Eighties, Britons won three consecutive Olympic gold medals and even skaters who never made the podium during those years finished inside the top ten more often than not. Now, the sport leaves the Nineties without British skaters in three of the four disciplines at world level.

Anjelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov, of Russia, won the compulsory dances, ahead of Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat, of France, and Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Craatz, of Canada, who are tied for second. Clements and Shortland are seventeenth.

land are seventeenth.

Yet perhaps they should consider themselves lucky to be there at all. International Skaring Union (ISU) rules allow 30 skaters in each discipline to quality for the Olympics, taken from a combination of the previous world championship results and a pre-Olympic qualifying event. Last year, the British Olympic Association (BOA) additionally laid down its own criteria of skaters having to finish in the top half of a world-class field before of a world-class field before gaining selection. Last year, Britain qualified in all four disciplines under ISU rules, but in only one under the BOA's

If this week is anything to go y — with the exception of the ice dancers - Britain would not meet even the ISU criteria, and that should be rudimentary.

SPORT

Early bird given late start at **Sawgrass**

■ GOLF: Colin Montgomerie partners John Daly in the first two rounds of the Players Championship in Sawgrass. Florida, tomorrow and Friday. But, after being part of the dawn chorus in the Bay Hill Invitational last week, Montgomerie has a long wait before he can begin his challenge. He tees off at 1.21pm local time [6,2]pm in Britain] with Daly and Andrew Magee,

who was runner-up to Jeff Maggert in the World Match Play championship last month. Nick Faldo starts just before them with Vijay Singh, the

US PGA champion, and David Toms, while Ian Woosnam, who tees off with with Tom Purtzer and Harrison Frazar, starts immediately behind. Lee Westwood, who finished fifth last year, starts his round at 8.22am with Steve Elkington, who has won the event twice, and Chris Perry. E CYCLING: Marco Pantani, of Italy, the Tour de France

champion, whose main goal this season is to win the world title on home soil in Verona, may not defend his title. Giuseppe Martinelli, the Mercatone team director. said: "He has to do the Vuelta [Tour of Spain] to tackle the world championships in his best shape." Pantani has been in fine early-season form, winning the Tour of Murcia.

IN RUGAY UNION: Swansea University, holders of the British Universities Sports Association (BUSA) title, defend their trophy at Twickenham today against St Mary's College, University of London. St Mary's are appearing in their first BUSA final. Vuelta [Tour of Spain] to

BOXING: Robert Norton, of Stourbridge, who has lost just once in his 20 professional bouts, chailenges Jacob Mofokeng. the South African champion. for the World Boxing Union

cruiserweight title at the

next Thursday.

THE

Aston Villa Leisure Centre

SNOOKER

White gets down to **business**

IMMY WHITE, who has dways made the most of his isits to Dublin, either from a ecreational or professional tandpoint, yesterday vindicatd the sponsor's decision to ward him a wild-card invitaion to the Benson and Hedges rish Masters at Goffs (Phil 'ates writes). White's extended stay in one

if the city's finest hotels in any the 1980s was the subect of a colourful passage in is biography, Behind the Vhite Ball, published recent-/, but the present visit is acious business. With the final qualifying

ound of the Embassy world hampionship in Telford nine ays away. White is looking to oost his confidence. A 6-2 vic-ory over Mark Williams will ave gone some way down the and to such an objective. Williams, winner of the

ish Open, Welsh Open and hailand Masters this season, it 2-1 after a break of 65 in the aird frame, which proved to the highest of a scrappy ennunter. He amassed only 43 pints in the next four frames, rough, as White took control.

nswers from page 42

NATIONAL SCHOOLS SEVENS RESULTS

COLTS: Group A: City of London Free-man's 14 Dwr-9-Felin 33; Torquay 12 Ad-ems GS 25; City of London Freemen's 0 Torquay 35; Dwr-y-Felin 12 Adams GS 24; City of London Freemen's 14 Adams GS 31; Dwr-y-Felin 26 Torquay 5. Group wintness: Adams GS.

Adams GS.
B: trybndge 5 Dulwich Col 31:
B: trybndge 5 Dulwich Col 31:
Boys 24 St Paul's 0: trybndge 0
Boys 34; Dulwich 33 St Paul's 7;
a 15 St Paul's 29; Dulwich 19
Boys 15. Group winniens: Doi-

Windsor Boys 15. Group winners: Dolwich.
GRIOUP C: John Fisher 14 Lierthari 31;
St Edward's, Oxford 19' Downside 0;
John Fisher 28 St Edward's, Oxford 17;
Lanhari 38 Downside 10; John Fisher 36
Downside 12; Llanhari 29 St Edward's,
Oxford 12. Group winners; Llanhari,
GRIOUP D: St Peter's, York 12 Bysanston
7; Wallington 24 Bassingbourn 12; St Peter's, York 40 Wallington 7: Bysanston 13;
Bassingbourn 0; St Peter's, York 36 Bassingbourn 0; St Peter's, York 37 Bassingbourn 0; St Peter's, York 36 Bassingbourn 0; St Peter's, Whitchurch 19, Judd 12; Etham 24 Judd 24; Whitchurch 19, Judd 12; Etham 24 Judd 38; 26 RGS Guiderd 31. Group winners: Whitchurch 19, Judd 12; Etham 24 Judd 38; 25 Ignatius 5; RGS High Wycombe 29 St Ignatius 5; RGS High Wycombe who Cothe's, Group winners: Cavendish 32 St Ignatius 5; RGS High Wycombe who Cothe's, Group winners: Cavendish 38; Barnet 19 Strade 21; Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet 19 Strade 19; Ryde 10 St George's, Weybridge 15
Strade 27; Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet 19 Strade 19; Ryde 10 St George's, Weybridge 29. Group winners: Strade
19; Ryde 10 St George's, Weybridge 29. Group winners: Strade
12; Reveriew 5 Haberdashers' Asie's 22.

19: Ryde 10 St George's, Weybridge 24.
Group winners: Strade.
GRIOUP H: Panghourne 24 Treglo 12.
Beverley 5 Haberdashers' Asle's 22.
Panghourne 38 Beverley 12. Treglo 19
Haberdashers' Asle's 24; Panghourne 24 Haberdashers' Asle's 31; Treglo 19
Beverley 17. Group winners: Haberdashers' Asle's 31; Treglo 29
Beverley 17. Group winners: Haberdashers' Asle's.
GROUP b St. John's 0 Colston's 34; Broshourne 32; Colston's 14 Emanuel 12; St. John's 5 Broshourne 32; Colston's 14 Emanuel 12; St. John's 7 Emanuel 37; Colston's 40 Broshourne 10. Group winners: Colston's.
GROUP J. St. Benedici's 21 Howard of Effinghern 12; King's, Taunton 21 Mil Hill
7: St. Benedici's 12 King's, Taunton 12; Howard of Effinghern 7 Mil Hill 10; Howard of Effinghern 7 King's, Taunton 25 Group winners: King's, Taunton 25 Group winners: King's, Taunton 25

GROUP K: St Ambrose 26 Carliord 22; Chistehurst and Sidoup 5 Gwyr 43; St Ambrose 33 Chistehurst and Sidoup 28; Canbord 24 Chistehurst and Sidoup 28; Canbord 24 Chistehurst and Sidoup 14; Canford 24 Chistehurst and Sidoup 14. Group winners: Gwyr.
GROUP L: St Joseph's, Ipswich 24 Whitehurst and Sidoup 14. Group winners: Gwyr.
GROUP L: St Joseph's, Ipswich 24 Whitehurst 25 Milton Abbey 7; St Joseph's, Ipswich 34 John Cleveland 0; Whitight 21 John Cleveland 14. Group winners: St Joseph's, Ipswich.
GROUP 48; Berkhamsted 14. Group winners: St Joseph's, Ipswich.
GROUP 48; Berkhamsted 7 King Henry VIII, Coventry 38; Caterham 12 Princethorpe 12; Berkhamsted 7 King Henry VIII, Coventry 38; Caterham 12 Princethorpe 22; Berkhamsted 19 Princethorpe 22; Berkhamsted 19 Princethorpe 31; Caterham 7 King Henry VIII, Coventry 28; Group winners: King Henry VIII, Coventry 29; Group winners: King Henry VIII, Coventry 21; Group winners: King Henry VIII, Coventry 22; Group winners: King Henry VIII, Coventry 38; Caterham 19; Enfeld 19 Sherborne 21; Beaching 36 Enfeld 5; Group winners: Reading 39 Sherborne 14; Durham 13; Enfeld 5; Group winners: Reading 39 Sherborne 14; Durham 14 Enfeld 5; Group winners: Reading 39 Sherborne 14; Durham 15; Enfeld 5; Group winners: Rugby GROUP P: St John's Leathershead 28; Riymn 15; Berlord 24; Principles 17; Worth 0 Eton 15; Deverant Foundation 5; Licased Victualiers 17; Devenant Foundation 29; Eton 28 Licased Victualiers 17; Devenant Foundation 29; GROUP P: St John's Leatherlead 28; Riymn 14; Berlord 24; Group winners: Eton.
GROUP P: St John's Leatherlead 28; Riymn 14; Berlord 24; Group winners: Eton.
GROUP P: St John's Leatherlead 28; Riymn 15; Berlord 24; Group winners: Eton.
GROUP P: St John's Leatherlead 29; St Peter's, Glos 45; St John's Leatherlead 29; St Peter's, Glos 45; St John's Leatherlead 39; St Peter's, G

dinal Vaughan 5; Brighton w/o Stowe; Skinners w/o Stowe; Brighton 19 Carolinal Vaughan 5, Group winnerns Brighton.
GRIOUP T: Tiffin w/o Warwick; Hymens 24 Leigh CTC 0; Hymens w/o Warwick; Tiffin 26 Leigh GTC 5; Leigh CTC w/o Varwick; Tiffin 28 Leigh GTC 5; Leigh GTC w/o Varwick; Tiffin 28 Leigh GTC 5; Leigh GTC w/o Varwick; Tiffin 28 Hymens 10. Group winners: Tiffin GRIOUP Ut Eastbourne 28; The Onatourne, GRIOUP V: Claire's Court 14 Wellington Col 21; Burnside 22 Castle 12; Claire's Court 22 Burnside 7; Wellington Col 29; Castle 5; Claire's Court 22 Castle 14; Wellington Col 24; Burnside 14. Group winners: Wellington Col 29; Castle 5; Claire's Court 22 Castle 14; Wellington Col 24; Burnside 14. Group winners: Wellington Col 29; Castle 5; Claire's Court 29; Leigh Group winners: Wellington Col 29; Castle 10; Concord William's, Theme 17 Cruchester 10; Lord William's, Theme 17 Cruchester 10; Lord William's, Theme 17 Cruchester 10; Couph William's, Theme 17 Cruchester 10; Lord William's, Lord William 10; Lord Willia

SNOW REPORTS

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Soll 60 160 Good Open Powder Snow 0	23/3
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Avoriez 250 270, Good Open-Rowder Snow 6 La Clistez 45 250 Good Court Powder Cloud 3 La Piscrie 170 280, Good Court Powder Cloud 7	23/3
La Plagne 170 260, Good Copp. Powder Cloud 7	223
la Tama - 101 250 Cost Clost Towner Cloud 2	22/3
Les Arcs 135 386 Good Open Powder Snow 8 Tignes 158 300 Good Court Powder Sun 10	23/3
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AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

WIN a complete kit for your football team

40 prizes of AXA team kits to be won

sponsors AXA to give your team the chance to win one of 40 sets of football kits, worth £500 each, and to take part in a training session with an England player. The competition, part of a grass roots initiative by AXA to assist the development of football in the community, is open to school and dub teams of all levels and standards throughout the UK.

Each of the 40 prizes consists of 14 top-quality Umbro football strips of shirts, shorts and socks, including one goalkeeper's jersey. In addition, the 40 winning teams will be invited to one of four regional venues to be presented with their new kit by a member of the England squad, including the likes of Tony Adams, Robert Lee, Nigel Martyn and Gareth Southgate". Each team will also be given training tips and have a coaching session under the supervision of some of the best players in England.

HOW TO ENTER

Complete the entry form, below, and attach a separate sheet of paper telling us (in no more than 50 words) why your team should win a new football kit. Entries must arrive by first post Monday, April 12, 1999. Only one entry per team allowed. The 40 winners will be the teams which, in the opinion of the judges, give the most apt and original reason for winning a kit for their team. Normal TNL competition rules apply. "Players may vary

THE



KITS FOR THE COMMUNITY



THE TIMES AXA KITS IN THE COMMUNITY ENTRY FORM Complete this form and attach a separate sheet of paper with your reasons why your team should win a new kit (50 words or less). Post it, to arrive by first post

Monday, April 19, 1999, to. The Times/AXA Kits in the Community Competition, ITI, Stirling House, 21 Winchester Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 BUE Which one of the lotowing age groups do you tell into? It you buy The Times, on which sizy(s) do you usually buy 17 | Monday | Toesdey | Wednesday | Don't usually buy The Times

Approx kit size (S. M. L. XL) ___ F you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by The Times, please tick 🗀

CHANGING TIMES

Which reports! Sunday revespeper(s) do you buy quite other (1-2 crapes per month)?

thes to

MAY LEAGUE

The Great Snowy Owl. From the Norse, har a hare, plus fan-to catch. 'The harfang or Great Snowy Owl is found in very

eir Christian subjects.

igh northern latitudes, of both the Old and the New World." SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE Rd2+! 2 Kxd2 Nxi3+ and the white queen is lost.

WORD-WATCHING

) A kind of door latch. Local dialect in Yorkshire and Lincolnrire. "A haggaday is frequently put upon a cottage door, on the side, without anything projecting outwards by which it may lifted. A little slit is made in the door, and the latch can only

A genealogical tree representing the pedigree of Christ, from e root of Jesse (cf. Isaiah xvi, 12). Used in churches in the Mid-

* Ages as a decoration for a wall, window, vestment, etc., or in

e Ages as a necoration for a wan, window, vestment, etc., or in form of a large branched candlestick. "It was wrought into a anched candlestick called a Jesse, in the year 1097 Hugo de ori, abbot of St Augustine's, Canterbury, bought for his urch a candlestick of this kind, quod Jesse vocatur."

The same as caratch. The poll-tax levied by the Turks on

raised by inserting therein a nail or slip of metal."

Pandering to public bloodlust

up to in their past lives. but it must be pretty bad. Certainly the punishment that has been handed out to them during their present journeys астоѕѕ the Vale of Maya could only fit some truly dreadful crimes. They can't all have been Nero, can they?

A BBC flyer roosting on the doormat told me that tonight, the past four England football managers/coaches will "hit back at the press for turning miss it all with an airy wave of

lion's den". They do so in a pro-**Teachers** gramme called The Lion's Den. It is to could not be presented by Brian Alexander. hit back' who briefly worked as a down-table sub-editor on this

newspaper, where he clearly learnt all he knew, because he went on to become sports to the waiter about your curry editor of The Sun, the one responsible for turning Graham Taylor into a turnip. Alexander, wisely now pre-

ferring the glamour medium. will be hearing from Taylor, Bobby Robson, Terry Vena-bles and Glenn Hoddle. It is a simple but clever idea. At my junior school there was one day a year on which, as a fundraising stunt, pupils were entitled to throw wet sponges at

don't know what it is that the teachers and — glory! — England managers get the teachers could not hit back. This programme follows the same format.

> It is a golden opportunity for a good old whinge in front of a wholly sympathetic audience. Everybody hates the press, as libel lawyers will tell you with untrammelled glee. It doesn't stop them reading newspapers. but "hating the press" is seen now as an ineluctable aspect of the human condition. My first reaction is to dis-

> > make a remark about heat and kitchens. Partly this is trade union

the hand and to

solidarity with fellow scribes and turnip-makers, partly it is an impatience with the lack of logical thought behind most of the anti-press whinges. If you order a vindaloo, don't whinge

being too spicy. No doubt we shall hear that the nature of the criticism aimed at England managers is "unfair to their families". Well, that is fame for you: if you don't want to be famous, it is best not to enter public life. And - contrary to the belief of every would-be famous person you don't get fame on your

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

But then I think of some of the deliberately wounding attacks on England managers and, to be fair, some of it really

Robson is the most obvious example of unfairness. He made a pretty good fist of the job, World Cup quarter-finalist in 1986, semi-finalist in 1990. But he was pursued with extraordinary relentlessness. The Sun's headline after a disappointing result against Saudi Arabia — In The Name Of Allah, Go! - is merely the most memorable example. Robson did all right but, under the pressures of the job.

he aged visibly before the eyes

of the nation. He continues in football management to this day, a decent football manager and a decent man.

Taylor is another decent and very likeable man. Certainly the job was too much for him. And there is no ducking the genius of The Sun's headline that greeted his team's defeat by Sweden - Swedes 2 Turnips 1. But did Taylor really deserve the personal abuse, the personal mocking? Venables always managed to get a good, not to say slavish

press — at least, on the football side. The harder-nosed reporters have kept an eagle deserve perhaps i mean vulture - eye on his business dealthe abuse?

for Venables there. True, plenty of other people have been involved in similar business deals without getting so much media coverage. But being a famous footballing man and a businessman is a tough double to bring off, and Venables didn't make it.

ings. No one weeps

Hoddle was the author of his own demise. He told a reporter about his beliefs and was dismayed by the public response to them. He is inclined to see himself as a media martyr, hounded out of office by a vile press for beliefs, sincerely held. This was a bizarre episode, but it was the public response to Hoddle's beliefs, not the reporting of them, that persuaded the Foothall Association to fire him.

But there is, in truth, something distasteful about the frenzy that occurs once the blood of an England manager can be smelt. Why, then, does it happen? Well, it wouldn't happen at all if it didn't sell papers and it wouldn't sell papers if people didn't want to read it. Unreal expectations are the

dominant fact of the England manager's life: he has to win every match. World Cup final, or he is Letting Us Down. And the only England man-

World Cup final was sacked. An England manager who has Let Us Down must pay the price. It is not the press that demands it, but the public, for the press, as a rule, articulates rather than creates the national mood. The public hounding of England football managers is distasteful, irrational and unfair. But if it didn't satisfy an incontinent public need, it wouldn't happen. The press is just doing what it has always done - seeking to please the

TELEVISION CHOICE

In search of serpents

Deadly Rattlesnakes with Steve Irwin

"There's a good limbe rantier," soothes Steve Irwin in his laid-back Australian drawl. He's in America in search of rattlesnakes and "as I'm a professional herpetologist I would not like to be nipped". Viewers may recall Irwin's debut last year when he let some of the most venomous snakes in Australia lick his face. Now he's knee-deep in "the most highly evolved snakes in the world — perhaps the pinnacle of reptile evolution". He likes to get in close: "It's my way of demonstrating the beauty of these misunderstood creatures." And he prides himself on never getting bitten although the Western Diamondback can, as you'll see, strike at up to 175mph and the Mojave Rattler, with venom 20 times more toxic than the Diamondback, seems to have killed a fair proportion of the population of

Trouble at the Top: Degsy Rides Again BBC2, 9pm

Built like Robbie Coltrane, the titanic businessman John Myers brooks no rivals. He has opened a new radio station in the already highly competitive North and tonight we watch how he did it. The Norm and unight we watch now he dud it. The station is Century 105 Manchester and Myers, an experienced broadcaster himself, is taking no chances. He floods money into it — fighting for his biggest coup, commentary rights for the Manchester United games — to the tune of £3 million. And he sacks people like there's no tomorrow (which for them, there isn't). His biggest headers is trained to make a chosen in host curt of headache is trying to make a phone-in host out of Derek Hatton, the infamous former politician.

BBC1, 10pm (Northern Ireland, 10.50pm)

Not just another excuse for Auntie to recycle her comedy — more a genuinely sociological look, through a three-part Omnibus special, at how television sitcoms evolved, how they reflected the mores and thinking of their day and in some instances anticipated them. Go back four or five

the US in search of rattlesnakes (ITV, 8pm)

decades and the influence of American sitcoms, such as I Love Lucy and Life with the Lions, was paramount. The British could enjoy them because, being American, they were classless. In those days one didn't poke fun at class. But radio was doing well with Take It From Here — and then came Hancock who emptied the pubs with his take-off of the aspiring middle class.

Elizabeth Cowley decades and the influence of American sitcoms

The Lion's Den

BBC1, 11.25pm (Northern Ireland, 12.15am)

While England international footballers proudly wear three lions on their shirts, their managers must be mindful of the journalistic lions lying in wait. Three days before the latest national coach. Kevin Keegan, watches England tackle Poland in a vital European championship qualifier at Wembley, Brian Alexander interviews his four predecessors about the perils of the job: Bobby Robson, Graham Taylor, Terry Venables and Glenn Hoddle. It is Hoddle's second big television interviews since his comments to Matt Dickinson. the Times's football reporter, precipitated his dismissal, and his views on the relationship between media and management could be interesting.

Louise Godfrey

It is always pleasant to welcome a new series with a title that actually tells us what the programme is all about and soul fans will enjoy the opener. which is the story of James Brown. Hang on a

minute, I ought to clarify that: I happen to be a soul fan but have never much liked James Brown: the showmanship sometimes obscures the talent and the controversy doesn't help, either. But talent he undoubtedly has. This is one of the few occasions that the bandh, which the state of the few occasions that the state of the few occasions the state of the state of the few occasions the state of t

when an hour hardly seems enough, but the programme, presented by Daryl Hall, manages to cram in the long singing career, the drugs busts and the 1988 car chase which ended with Brown serving a three-year jail sentence for drugs and firearms offences. Peter Barnard

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00em The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Cuttook 7.55 My Century 9.00 World News 8.05 Westway 8.20 Off the Shelf Enduring Love 8.35 One Pisnet 9.00 World News 9.05 Sounds Right 9.20 World Ranking 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Britain Today 10.45 Legal World 11.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Sports International 12.09 World News 12.05pm Cuttook 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 World News 2.05 Core Pisnet 2.30 Mendian Live 3.00 World News 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 From Cur Own Correspondent 3.30 Jazzmatazz 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 Mutetrack: X-Press 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 World News 6.15 Britain Today 6.30 Sports International 7.00 World News 7.05 One Pisnet 7.30 Legal World 7.45 Off the Shelf Enduring Love 8.00 Newshour 2.00 World News 9.05 World Business Report 9.20 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian 10.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 Mutitrack X-Press 11.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 Mutitrack X-Press 11.00 World News 11.05 Outlook 11.45 Insight 12.00 The World Today 12.30em One Planet 12.55 My Century 1.00 The World Today 1.30 Meridian Live 2.00 The World Today 2.30 Everywoman 3.00 The World Today 3.20 Sports Round-Up 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today

and music to ease you into the day 8.00 Henry Ketly Include the Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week 12.00 Lunchtim

Requests, Jame Jones introduces listeners' tavourite pieces of classical music 2,00pm Concerto. Litotti (Concerto Sinfonique No. 4 in D minor) 3,00 James Crick, Including infromation

updates, Communuous Cassacs and Altermoon Formance aco-Newsright. Headlines, arts news and guests 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning Introduces easy-listening counds 9.00 Evening Concert. Rachmennov (Symphony No. 2 in E-minor, Piano Concerto No. 2 in C-minor, The Rock) 11.00 Menn at Niight. Music and conversation through until the small hours with Alan Mann 2.00em Concerto. Litoff (Concert Statesia in No. 4 in D. menor) (1) 3.00 Merk Criffitis introduces.

Sinfonique No 4 in D minor) (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths introduces

es. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romanca 6.30

Giants of Soul Radio 2, 9pm

Old Harry's Game Radio 4, Ilpm

Return for a third series of the show that won "best radio comedy" at the British Comedy awards last year. That was not a universally acclaimed verdict but Old Harry's Game deserved it in my view for the originality of Andy Hamilton's script (he also stars as Satan). Tonight, Hell has taken delivery of 200 men in their sixties from cities all over the US and Europe, all wearing nothing but their pyjamas and a broad smile. "Oh God, I hate Viagra," comments Satan, "what a stupid drug for a sexmad species to invent." As ever, Satan is surrounded by incompetent assistants with the IQ of a Baldrick: "Next time you're sacrificing a living animal to the forces of darkness, don't use a testicing it to not wear practical." tortoise, it's not very practical."

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Bell 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Mark Radditte 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbast 6.00 Devidence Pearoe 8.00 Steve Larmaco: The Evaning Session 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode 10.10 John Peel 12.00 Gilles terson 2.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Waler 7.00 Nick Barraciough 8.00 Mite Harding 9.00 Glants of Soul. See Choice (1/8) 10.00 Top of the Pops 2 on 2 10.30 Flichard Allinson 12.00 Katrina Leskanich 3.00am Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell a Judam Morning Hapports But Breatrass \$100 Nocky Campoes 12.00 The Midday News with Arms Website 1.00pm R. Puscoe and Co 4.00 Drive with Peter Alien and Jane Garvey 7.00 News Edita. A full round-up, including a sports bulletin 7.30, John hwerdele's Football Night. Action from the tootball league. Plus, the National Lottery draw 10.00 Littlejohn. No-nonsense football talk on tonight's European and domestic action 11.00 Late Night Live with Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night.

TALK RADIO

8.00em The Big Boys Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00 Let's Talk Pats 1.00pm Anna Rectum 4.00 The Sports Zone 7.00 Off Side with Sebastian Coe 8.00 The Big Issues 10.00 James Whale 1.00em Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evens 9.30 Russ Willerns 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Gary Davies am Richard Allen 4.30 Phil Ke

6.00am On Air Penny Gore presents arts news and music. Topett (Fantasta concertante on a Theme of Corelli): Haydri (Sonata in G, H XVI 40)

9.00 Masterworks with Pater Hobday, Vivaldi (Concerto in D misor, RVS66): Zeienka (Confitebor tibi, Domine): Grieg (Lyric Pieces, Book 3)

10.30 Artist of the Weelc The Labeque Staters

11.00 Sound Stories: Islands Richard Baker Investigetes music by loclandic composers

12.00 Composer of the Weelc Schubert

1.00pm The Radfo 3 Lunchtime Concert Thomas Ades, piano. Beethoven (Six Bagatefies, Op 126): Janacek (In the Mists) (r)

2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Welse under David Atherton and Tadaaki Otalea, Kathryn Stott, piano. Stravinsky (Petrustrika, 1947 version); Rachmannov (Rhapsody on a Theme of Pagarim); Glazunov (Symphony No 3 in D)

4.00 Choral Evensong Live from Terrington St Clement Paris Church, Norfolk, sung by the chor of Gonville and Calus College, Cambridge, with the Cambridge Baroque Camerata.

5.00 In Turne with Sear Raiferty. Music includes Bruch (Romance for viola and orchestra); Beethoven (Choral Fantasia in C minor)

7.30 Performance on 3 Live from City Hall, Newcastle, a concert celebrating the Stith birthday of composer John Caslean, Kyra Humphnes, wolin, Northern Sinfonla under Nicholas Kraemer, Lully (Prelude: Airs pour la carrousel de monseigneur);

Prelude: Airs pour la carrousel de monse

Ravel (Pavane pour une infante defunte); Faure, orch anon (Apres une reve, Op 7 No 1); Casken (Apres une siernce) 8.20 hiteval. Lynne Walker talls to John Casken 8.40 Concert, part two Faure (Suite: Pelleas et Melisande); Remeau

(Suite: Les boreades)
9.35 Postscript: The Body Politic (3/5)
10.00 Ensemble Includes Janacek (Violin Sonata),
performed by Nicola Loud, Sam Haywood, plano;
Elger (String Quartet in E minor, Op 83, slow mvt),
performed by the Coull Quartet

10.45 Night Waves Laura Cumming discusses this rich cultural history and investigates the importance of Sikh identity in modern India.

11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton talks to George Metly about the singers and songs that have influenced his career.

about the singers and songs that have influenced his career

12.00 Composer of the Weelc Strauss (r)

1.00am Through the Night 1.00 Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli (piano) plays Bach arr Busoni, Scariati, Schumann, Debussy and Chopin 1.55 Jean Daetwyler (Alphom Concerto No 1.2.15 Schein (Diletti pastorali (excerpts) 2.35 Weber (Grand duo concertant, Op 8.3.00 Schools: Time and Tune 3.20 Together 3.40 Dance Workshop 4.00 The Song Tree 4.20 Scotish Resources 10-12 5.00 Bruths (De profundis 5.10 Lukas Foss (Percussion Concerto 5.40 Trad Canadian, air Beckwith (The Banks of Newfoundland; Farewell to Nova Scotia 5.50 Frano Parac (Pastorele)

architects and designers created centres of entertainment from Rome's Cotosseum to the Royal Court Theatre of today (2/4)

4.30 Thinking Allowed Laune Taylor and guests think the unthinkeble about society

5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Clare English

6.00 Str O'Clock News

6.30 Bethylenon The community responses (e.g.)

4.00 Four Walls Jonathan Glancey explores how

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today Rural issues, with Ashley Gething 6.00 Today with James Naughtle and John Humphys 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Round up of

9.00 Mildweek The Times columnist Libby Purves plays host to lively conversationalists
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (LW) Service The Word A new work by the Nobel prize-winning Nigerian author Wole

Soyrika (3/5) 10.00 Woman's Hour with Jermi Murray and gue 10.00 Woman's Hour with Jermi Murray and guests
11.00 Southell Storles in the first of two programmes,
Naresh Puri finds out how Asian settlers have
transformed the Middlesex town of Southall (1/2)
11.30 Our Man at Wembley Cornedy set in 1947, by
Bill Matthews is Eric in danger of over-exposure?
Alistair McGowen and Jon Glover star (3/4) (r)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer
news and investigations, presented by Mark
Whittaker and Troise Rawlinson
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarko

1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.30 Inspiration! Adam Hart-Davis, Johnny Ball, Len

Fisher and Kevin Warwick join Chris Stuart to explore the world of innovations, discoveries

inventions

2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)

2.15 Afternoon Play: A White Velvet Nightcap in Florida Stephen Moler's play based on the letters of the Hungarian wher Tibor Dery, With John Rowe and Tracy-Arn Oberman

3.00 Gardeners' Question Time (r)

3.30 The New Recruit The changing times as witnessed by two florists (3/5) (r)

3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 58 of the history of Britain (r)

8.00 Six O'Clock News
8.30 Ballylenon The community prepares for a revelation. Last in series, starring Christopher Fitz-Simon's comedy drama, starring T.P. McKenna and Margaret D'Arcy (6/6) (r)
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson presents a special edition from the first London Festival of Literature
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Part 28. Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour (r)
8.00 The Moral Maze Michael Buerk presents ethical debate, with Janet Datey, Ian Hargreaves, David Cook and David Starkey
8.45 Lent Taffics The actress Imogen Stubbs offers her view of Easter
9.00 Under Pressure The scientist John Pyle's quest to discover the causes of ozone depletion
9.30 Midweek Broadcast earlier (r) in discover are causes or ozone depredion 9.30 Midweek Broadcast earlier (r) 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtimer Radio 4 at The World — Furniture Written by Michael Moorcock, Read by Moorco Stand

Furniture Written by Michael Moorcock, Read by Maggie Steed.

11.06 Late Night on 4: Old Harry's Game New series of Andy Hamilton's award-winning comedy, set in Hell. See Choice (1/6)

11.30 (FM) Maurinon (8/6) (r)

11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political update
12.00 News 12.30em The Late Book: Raymond Carver Short Stories A travelling salesman has a chance encounter with his tather (r)

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM FREQUENCY GUIDE, HADIO 1. FM 97.0-93.5. HADIO 2. FM 602-92.4. HADIO 3. FM 902-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxwy, Jame Gregory and

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McRae keeps rivals at bay

COLIN McRAE survived a relentless 17-hour onslaught from the Toyotas of Carlos Sainz and Didier Auriol and the Subaru of Richard Burns vesterday to hold on to a halfminute lead in the Rally of

Portugal. Through a tortuous maraFROM JEREMY HART IN OPORTO

thon of ten timed stages, held

in baking temperatures of 90F, the Briton fought off the three-proped attack from the front. By nightfall in Oporto, McRae, driving for Ford, had lost only 16 seconds of the

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ything, an even more impressive drive than his dominating display of the day before. "I was expecting to lose more of my lead today," the Scot, the 1995 world champion, said. "Starting first on the road is a disadvantage. The road is rougher and the spectators are often not ready when we come through at full tilt. To still have a half-minute advan-

tage with three short stages to "I thought we were pretty well on the limit on Monday, but I had to dig deep and find some more today. The Toyotas were fast and if I had given them an inch, they would have taken a mile."

Auriol finished the day shattered, mentally and physically, having held second place at one stage before conceding it to Sainz, of Spain. Never before, the Frenchman said, had he fought so hard to try to close a gap: "I gave it everything today. I pushed as hard as I could, but Colin was just too quick. I think the rally is

As if the attentions of the chasing pack were not enough, McRae's job was made harder by a team of in-

49-second advantage that he ept timing officials, who failed had held at dawn. It was, if anto set accurately the rally's complex timing equipment. McRae estimated that he lost up to five seconds as a result.

This rally is stuck in the past," he said. "The only saving grace is they seem to have sorted the crowd control problems that have plagued the rally for years."

From second place at the start yesterday, Burns, the British No 2, dropped back to fourth place, a victim of tyres that were unable to cope with the slippery dust roads.

"I have tried everything," Burns said. "I have been bouncing off banks in sixth gear. I can't do any more than the grip lets me, which isn't enough. Second [place] should have been mine."

Tommi Makinen, of Finland, the world champion,

POSITIONS

AFTER STAGE 17: 1, C McRae (GB, Ford) 3hr 23mm 22.6sec; 2, C Sainz (Sp. Toyota) at 33sec; 3, D Auriol (Fr, Toyota) 57.7; 5, T Makinen (Fn, Mitsubishi) 1.28.5; 6, B Thiny (Bet, Subaru) 6.19.6; 7, V tsik (Tur, Toyota) 8:11.1; 8, M Kahle (Ger, Toyota) 8:23.9, 9, R Madeira (Por, Subaru) 8:51 4; 10, P Solberg (Fin, Ford Focus) 9:22.8

minutes that he lost on Monday when his Mitsubishi was slowed with a transmission problem. Last night, he had climbed to fifth and was on course to hold on to a slender lead in the championship.

recovered some of the two

"I have lost the advantage I had at the start of the season," Makinen said. "Having second [place] taken away from me in Africa could hurt a lot later in the year. And getting only three or four points here is not really enough."

McRae, however, was contemplating his second success in consecutive events, having won the Safari Rally, and a memorable family double. Escaping the spotlight, Alister McRae, Colin's brother, led the Formula Two class in his Hyundai. Half a minute behind was Kenneth Eriksson.

his team-mate. "It would be great if Colin can win the rally and I can win Formula Two," Alister McRae, a former British rally champion, said, "but we're not celebrating yet. There's 40 miles of the stage to go."

LINKS

11.30pm (highlights)

Hackett eclipses oldest record

GRANT HACKETT, a lean and mean endurance specialist known to Australians as The Machine, yesterday broke the oldest world swim ming record among men. the ten-year 200 metres freestyle standard of Giorgio Lamberti. of Italy. Hackett then announced that he is likely to drop the event from his Olympic programme for

Sydney 2000. As world champion over 1,500 metres, Hackett, 18, from Queensland, had looked upon the 200 metres as a sprint ticket into the world record books merely as a member of the all-conquering Australia 4 x 200 metres team. But his stunning time of

Imin 46.67sec — 0.02sec inside

the time Lamberti recorded to

become European champion

in 1989 -- as lead-off man for

his Miami club's 4 x 200m re-

SWILLIAM By Craig Lord

lay at the Australian national championships in Brisbane yesterday has upset the order f things among the fastest set of freestylers to emerge from one country in the same era.

his team-mate. He beat both Thorpe and Michael Klim, the world 200 metres champion. in the 200 metres in Brisbane at the weekend, in 0.3sec slower than Lamberti's best. Now, as the fastest 200 metres freestyler in the world, he is

almost certain to form part of

and, as such, will face a mara-thon race schedule of 4,800 metres in Sydney. However, Hackett said yesterday that he would drop the individual 200 metres from his race programme first if his Olympics

Susan O'Neill, the Olympic 200 metres butterfly champion, was also in record-breaking mood yesterday, eclipsing the Commonwealth 200 metres freestyle mark set by June Croft, of Great Britain,

burden proves too great.

Hackett is favourite to win the Olympic L500 metres title and is a contender for the gold medal in the 400 metres freein 1982 style, alongside lan Thorpe,

O'Neill's time of imin 59.11sec was well inside Croft's 1:59.74 and augurs well for her ambition to break the oldest surviving record in world swimming, in the 200 metres butterfly, today. That has stood at 2min 05.96sec to Mary T. Meagher, of the United States, since August, 1981.

The Catcher caught by wry camerawork

money most readily to the person who can demonstrate that he needs it the least, so fame often lands most stubbornly on the shoulders of those who want

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nothing to do with it.

"This," said the narrator of
J.D. Salinger Doesn't Want to
Talk (BBC2), as we squinted at
some recent, unauthorised footage
of the author, "is one of the world's most famous recluses." How odd to be famous because you're a recluse. Today the only way of trumping the fame of those who ache to be famous is, paradoxically, to spurn fame. John Cage liked to say: "I'm saying nothing, and I'm saying it." In a similar way, the man who has barely said a word in public in the half century since publishing The Catcher In the Rye doesn't want to be famous. and he's famous for it. Shunning celebrity is incompre-

celebrity-obsessed culture. In an age when someone like Maureen Rees, who found stardom from driving badly in Driving School, can now charge for appearances, then Salinger's rejection of fame makes him a freak

Total Company of the Company of the

Staking him out in his home in Cornish. New Hampshire, becomes a little like visiting the loonies in Bedlam. This unique footage of the

writer has never been seen before." said the narrator as we peered, slightly guiltily, at a man shambling down the street, unaware that he was in the crosshairs of a stalker's camera. It was sunny. Salinger was wearing a blue shirt under one of those sleeveless beige jackets anglers wear, the ones covered in useful pockets for bait and hooks and egg sandwiches. His hair was so white it looked like icing. He reminded you of Jason Robards. An 80-year-old man just minding his own business.

and directed this film for BBC2's Close Up, was alert to the ethical dilemma of invading the author's privacy. So it wasn't she who filmed this sequence; but she did pay to use it. To heat us to it, the narrator asks right at the start: Why has Salinger tried to deny readers any knowledge of who he was? And do we have the right to try and find out more?".

7 ell. I don't know if we have the right, but certainly we have the appetite. I feel slightly ashamed to say that, yes, I would like to know. more. I also feel relieved that interesting as this documentary was, embroidered with interviews with old friends, neighbours, lovers - it never managed to get very far past the perimeter fence of Salinger's life to was the Salinger's life. It was the relief you feel when temptation is snatched away just seconds before your

REVIEW

Joe



weak will was about to succumb and lead you into something you might later blush to recall.

Her resolve not to stalk Salinger herself makes you wonder if maybe Aspinall, 100, was relieved that she'd unearthed little that might brand her a Peeping Tom. She was able to produce 50 minutes of bewitching documentary and still go home with a clear conscience. Her film also helped

us to clarify our thoughts on what claims we have on an artist who is no longer seeking our custom for his books. Actually, we have none Glenn Hoddle, unlike Salinger,

has decided it's good to talk. Roger Mills's film for Channel 4, Hoddle and the Healer, gave him an unchallenged opportunity to put his case. Unfortunately he was mostly

defending himself against accusations that weren't the pivotal ones levelled against him. This was presumably the price Mills had to pay for Hoddle's co-operation. So, much of the programme was

devoted to defending spiritual healers, such as Eileen Drewery, and citing evidence of the wonders they worked on apparently incurable injuries. Since healing could be seen to work, ran the thesis, it must follow that Hoddle was hounded out of his job as England coach unfairly. 'Hoddle's faith in healing would

soon land him in deep trouble." intoned the narrator.

ut hang on, Hoddle didn't Best into hot water hecause he employed a healer (which many British team coaches use), or else he would have been sacked as England coach even before the World Cup. Hoddle got into that water because he has unconventional views about the way reincarnation works - in particular a belief that those who are afflicted in this life are being punished for evils they have committed in a past life. (Even Eileen's husband told us that, after seeing the disembowelling per-formed at the end of the film Braveheart, he wondered whether his own colostomy was punishment for his employment as an executioner in a previous life). England's World Cup defeat was apparently the turning point.

"The press," said the narrator,

"now had the chance to use Glenn's beliefs against him." But if that was the case, why didn't they conspire to get him sacked last summer? Why was the fury at the time directed at David Beckham's petulance rather than at Hoddle? No, what probably cost Hoddle

his job was not his use of healers, but his defects as a coach: his betrayal of confidentiality over Gazza's outburst on being told he wouldn't be going to France; and his failure to practise penaltytaking before a tournament where penalty shootouts frequently decide matches. His belief that disabled people

were paying for sins from a previous life may have been the trigger, but both barrels were already loaded and ready to fire. Hoddle, like Gerald Ratner, has learnt what Salinger has known for decades: get on with what you do best and keep your trap shut. It's what all the smart people do.

8801° 6.00am Business Breakfast (78144) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (30811)

hensible to many people in a

9.00 KBroy (T) (2299095) 9.45 Style Chellenge (5494340) 10.10 The Vanesse Show (T) (7188434) 10.55 News; Weather (T) (3731521) 11.00 Change That (3758298) 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (3728057) 11.55 News; Weather (1) (7806095) 12.00 Call My Bluff (92502)

12.30pm Wipeout (4272453) 12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53316453) 1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (40298) 1.30 Regional News; Wesher (59245328) 1.40 Neighbours (T) (35385786) 2.05 tronside (r) (5599231)

2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (1) (9819386) 2.55 Introdgit the Keynole (f) (1) (981938) 2.5 Children's BBC: Playdays (6142328) 3.45 Little Monsters (5706927) 3.50 Chucklevision (4130873) 4.10 See it, Saw it (5172182) 4.35 The Wild House (3719231) 5.00 Newsround (4481057) 5.10 Blue Peter (9178144)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (920786) 6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (347) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (927) 7.00 Holiday on a Shoestring (7) (2724) 7.30 Tomorrow's World (T) (811) 8.00 Changing Hooms (r) (1) (676434). 8.25 Holiday Reps Get Married Catching up on events since last season (T) (938786)

8.50 The National Lottery Greatest Hits with Angela Griffin (D. 1180347)
9.00 Nine O'(Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (5415)

9.29 National Lottery Update (654873) 9.30 Jasper Carrott: Back to the Front More stand-up comedy (5/6) (T) (30250)



A scene from the classic sitcom toe and Son (10pm)

Story of British Sitcom The origins of the British sitcom (1); Casualty 10.55 Film 99 with Jonathan Ross Jonathan Ross hosts a new series of the BBC's flagship movie programme (T) (987540)

11.25 The Lion's Den The difficulties of managing the England lootball team (T) (304434) 11.55 World Figure Skating (938499) 12.35am The River Rat (1984) An ex-convict returns home to his daughter after 13 years in Jali for a crime he didn't commit. Drama, with Tommy Lee Jones. Directed by Tom Rickman (T) (9523583)

2.00 Weather (9395632) 2.05 BBC News 24 (95363038)

10.55 The State (987540) 11.25 Film 99 with Jonathan Ross (1) (304434) 11.55 The Lion's Den (1) (173786) 12.25am World Figure Starting (9537729) 1.05 FILM: The River Rat. (1) (8458090) 2.30 Weather (5039922) 2.35-6.00 BBC News 24 (49638651) 7,00am Children's BBC Breekfast Show:

Deam Children's BBC Breekfast Show: Pingu (7117076) 7.05 Teletubbies (8439796) 7.30 Inch High Private Eye (3194540) 7.55 The Really Wild Show (8072076) 8.18 Rewind (3511231) 8.20 Goober and the Ghost Chasers (5768250) 8.40 Polké Dot Shorts (1723298) 8.50 Pingu (1712182) 9.00 Environment (7341298) 9.10 What? Where? When? Why? (7321434) 9.25 The Art (4089724) 9.45 Words and Pictures (8450434) 10.00 Teletubbies (94521) 10.30 Numbertime (9302908) 10.45 Watch (9990163) 11.00 Around Sotiand (3928908) 11.20 The Geography (\$928908) 11.20 The Geography Programme (\$875906) 11.40 Science in Action (\$256989) 12.00 Revista (\$964250) 12.15pm Hallo aus Berlin

4791892) 12.30 Working Lunch (25328) 1.00 Children's BBC: Brum (68642328) 1.10 The Edge Tom Palsy (f) (T) (41473724) 1.40 Hert-Davis on History (35306279) 2.10 Sporting Greats (56168328)

2.40 Neura; Weather (1) (3910618) 2.45 Westminster (1) (5685705) 3.50 News; Weather (T) (6862705)

1.55 Kaye (9195095) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6874540) 4.55 Esther Studie debate (r) (T) (2756182) 5.25 Whose House? (9104569) 5.50 Lifetine The Environmental Investigation Agency (1) (529347)

6.00 Star Treic The Next Generation A transporter malfunction turns Georgi and Ensign Ro invisible (r) (1) (859076) 6.45 World Figure Skatting Sue Barker introduces coverage of the pairs and men's short programmes (260453)

7.30 Sophie Grigson's Herbs The, creative cook prepares sorrel and cucumber soup and a peppery sauce for pasta (I) (453)

8.00 University Challenge Oriel College,
Oxford v Leicester University (I) (6786) 8.30 Looking Good Angela Buttolph reports on what's in and what's not in Los Arigelas (I) (8521)



The former politicien Derek Hatton takes to the airwaves (9pm)

Trouble at the Top The proadcaster John Myers prepares to launch a new commercial radio station in Manchester (T) (256076) 9.40 The Lost Race Documentary examining the demise of the National Front

organisation (T) (903279) 10.30 Newsnight (T) (648250) 11.15 Young Musicians (799618) 11.55 Weather (971540)

12.00 Despatch Box Crooks (62651) 12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Good Seeing 1.00 Cosmic Recycling 1.30 Venus Unveiled 2.00 Schools: - Christianity in Today's World/The RE Collection 4.00 Make German Your Business 5.00 Business and Training: RCN Nursing Update 5.45 Open University: Biological Barriers 6.10 Building in Cells 6.35 A Tale of Two Cells

HTV 5.30am (TV Morning News (14434) 6.00 GMTV (5453453) 9.25 Trisha (T) (8685182)

10.30 This Morning (T) (44207076) 12.15pm HTV News (T) (4795618) 12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (4267521) 12.55 Shortland Street Chris womes about Titlany (9694231)

1.30 Home and Away Tiegan plans to leave (1) (35314296) 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (1) (9686142) 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (1) (7914750)

3.10 FTV News Headlines (I) (4439415) 3.15 HTV News (T) (4438786) 3.20 CITV: Mopstop's Shop (4459279) 3.30 Teddybears (9402892) 3.40 Jumanji (9170788) 4.05 Hey Amold! (8855415) 4.35 Wildtrack (3744927)

5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (4328) 5.30 Live and Local Richard Wyatt and Polly Lloyd present the news roadshow from Longlest (502) 5.30 WALES: Up Beat With the rising actress

Nia Roberts (T) (502) 6.00 HTV News (T) (415) 6.26 HTV Crimestoppers (158908) 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (845)

7.00 Emmerdale Mandy starts making plans (1) (7892) 7.30 Coronation Street Curly plays Jackle at .her own game (1) (279)

8.00 Deadly Rattlesnakes with Stove Invin The wildlife film-maker travels from California to the Everglades in search of America's most feared snakes (T) (8231)



9.00 Dangerous Minds (1995) Premiers. A
US Marine leaves military life behind and
becomes a teacher, but faces a struggle
to earn her pupils' respect in the tough
inner-city school where she is assigned to teach a class of no-hopers. Drame, starring. Michelle. Pfeitier, George Dzundza and Courtney B. Vance. Directed by John Smith (T) (41476724)

10.55 ITV Nightly News; Weather (1) (242989) 11.15 HTV News and Weather (1) (550786) 11.25 Greyhounds (TVM 1993) Three ageing former policemen return to duty to crack former policemen return to duty to crack San Diego's toughest cases. Cornedy adventure, starring Dennis Weaver and Robert Guillaums, Directed by Kim

Manners (321502) 1.10am Sunset Beat (1990) George Clooney stars in this adventure about a group of come-lighters lackling an extortionist. Directed by Sam Weisman (943421) 2.55 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (1) (9860545) 4.00 The Maiding of The Slege Behind the scenes of the blockbuster (41272105)

4.25 Soundtrax (41284941) 4.50 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of TV programmes (43698293) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (64670)

CENTRAL As HTV West except: 12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (7933785

12.55 Home and Away (4275540) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4847434) 2.10-2.40 Echo Point (56186182) 3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (4438786) 5.30 Shortland Street (502) 6.00-6.30 Central News at 5b; Weather

11.15-11.25 Contral News; Weather (550785) 4.00am Central Jobfinder '99 (8529125) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3073670)

The second second

As HTV West except: 12.15pm Westcountry News (4795618) 12-27-12-30 Huminations (7941705)

12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live

(4275540) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4847434) 2.10-2.40 Home and Away (56186182) 3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather

4.58-5.00 Birthday People (7544637) 5.30 Peter Gorton for Starters (502)

6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (415) 11.15-11.25 Westcountry News; Weather (550786)

As HTV West except; 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weather (4795618) 5.30 Country Vets (6/6) (1) (502) 5.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight (1) (415) 7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather (278521) 11.15-11.25 Meridian News; Weather (1) (550786) 5.00cm-5.30 Freescreen (1) (64670)

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7945521) 12.20-12.30 Anglia News News (T) (415) 11.14 Anglia Air Watch (183153) 11.15-11.25 Anglia News and

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (t) (88575328) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (6/528057) 9.00
Yegollon: The Mix (97779569) 9.30
Rus-A-Tust-Tat (74709453) 9.45 Book Box (74704908) 10.00 Stage Two Science (91552882) 10.15 All About Us (91542415) (975)2382) 10.15 All About us (975)2410) 10.30 The French Programme (51270076) 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen (87963255) 11.00 Yr Amgyichedd (15615724) 11.15 Tackling Technology (15605347) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (88970837) 12.00 Bewitched (T) (97759705) 12.30pm Sesame Street (T) (26577250) 1.00 Planed Plant (T) (67521144) 1.30 Travelog Treks (T) (54425095) 1.45 (28577250) 1.00 Pianed Plant (T) (67521144)
1.30 Travelog Treks (T) (54425095) 1.45
FILM: The October Man (T) (50639347) 1.30
Collectors' Let (T) (67854328) 4.00
Fitteen-to-One (T) (67866163) 4.30 Rickl
Lake (T) (67862347) 5.00 Planed Plant (T)
(90847873) 5.30 Countdown (T) (6788327)
6.00 Newyddion 6 (T) (9319590) 8.10 Heno
(T) (88685183) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (T)
(90867837) 7.30 Newyddion (T) (6783076)
8.00 Pfermio (T) (90843057) 8.30 Hawfio (T)
(90855802) 9.00 ER (T) (37014298) 10.00
Brookside (T) (72312250) 10.35 Sex and the
City (T) (35417453) 11.05 The 11 O'Clock City (T) (35417453) 11.05 The 11 O'Clock Show (88123250) 11.35 Michael Moore: The Auriul Truth (1) (41754434) 12.10am The Spying Game (T) (69984699) 12.45 British Raily Championship (51578380) 1.15 Football Italia: Mezzanotte (30315125) 3.35 Trans World Sport (50220748) 4.30 Diwedd

CHANNEL 4

6.00em Sesame Street (r) (94182) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (23521)

9.00 Schools: The Mix (80796) 9.30 Rat-A-Tat-Tat (8457347) 9.45 Book Box (8445502) 10.00 Stage Two Science (9652540) 10.15 All About Us (9642163) 10.30 Channel Hopping (1206786) 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen (8576057) 11-00 First Edition VI (3859960) 11.15 Tacking

Technology (3872811) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (9618) 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (18540) 12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (43724)

1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (33908) 1.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (90875786) 1.35 The Three Stooges (1) (83278124)
1.55 The Bland Goddess (1947) Virtage drama about an aristocrat who sues his sacretary for accusing him of embezzing

public funds — even though he's guilty as charged. Eric Portman stars. Directed by Harold French (T) (75904366) 3.30 Collectors' Lot A look at traditional Welsh love spoons (1) (873) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (908)

4.30 Countdown (1) (3743298) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5851989) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (144) 6.00 Dawson's Creek A class assignment means Jen gets the chance to woo Dawson again (T) (868724)

6.50 T4orce Ben Shephard presents the entertainment update (641328) 7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (1) (138415) 7.55 Farmed Out A report on a British tannery hit badiy by the collapse of the Russian

economy (T) (901665) 8.00 Brookside Rachel decides to put her trust in Mike (1) (4182)

8.30 Doors to Manual Three tucky groups of travellers win the chance to spend a weekend in the Moroccan capital of Marrakesh (4/6) (T) (8219) 9.00 ER Lucy and Carter battle to save a girl with a rare blood group in desperate need of a transfusion. Starring Alex

Kingston, Juliana Margulies and Kellie Martin (T) (6637)

worrying news (1) (26569)
10.30 Michael Moore: The Awful Truth Offibeat reports from the US (1) (30219)



Satirical comedy with All Gee, the "voice of youth" (11pm)

11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show More up-to-theminute setire with late Lee, Daisy Donavan and Ali Gee (T) (3298) 11.30 So Graham Norton With the Time columnist Anne Robinson (r) (T) (483124)

12.10am boardstupid goes skiling A telemark festival in Scotland (r) (9534632) 12.45 British Raily Championships Round one action from Wales (31309) 1.15 Football Italia: Mezzanotte Round-up

 pf the week's action (33805458) 3.35 Trans World Sport (r) (9972941) 4.30 Soviet Echoes (r) (84800)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (6056958) 7,00 WideWorld Part four. Homes with delences such as castles and lowers (r) (T) (8627811)

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7.30 Milkshake! (2159637) 7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (4138366)

8.00 Havekazoo (n (2351989) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (2343960)

9.00 Hot Property (r) (1) (1113647) 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4910908) 9.30 The Oprah Wintrey Show (r) (2483827) 10.20 Sunset Beach Trey goes for a paternity 11.10 Leeza (3612219)

12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2354076) 12.30pm Family Affairs Josh starts a new venture (r) (T); 5 News Update (1732298) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Stephanie is accused of lying (T) (8626182)

1.30 The Roseanne Show Outrageous chat and gossip with the bubbly comedian; 5 News Update (1731569) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9610298) 2.30 Good Afternoon (1218786)

3:30 Deceptions (TVM 1985) Concluding part of the drama. Sabrina reveals her true identity in a bid to find out who killed her twin sister. Stefanie Powers stars. Directed by Robert Chenault/Melville Shavelson (T) (9948863)

5.20 5 News (90795417)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (2957366) 6.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories, including First on Five (2954279) 6.30 Family Affairs Gabby finds out about Pete's shady past (1) (2938231)

7.00 Knight Rider Michael is assigned to protect an endangered famale politician whose unorthodox views have gained her some powerful enemies. David Hasselhoff stars as the crime-busting motorist (r) 19681786) 7.30 Nature of Oz Wildlife film-makers

venture into the territory of the Australian gotter, in search of creatures inhabiting the country's greens and fairways (1); 5 News Update (2934415)

8.00 My Titanic Tragic disasters, from the Tube fire at King's Cross station in 1987 to a supposedly dream cruise which turned into a nightmere (T) (8045705)

9.00 Appointment for a Killing (TVM 1993)

A woman discovers that her adulterous husband has become a murderer, and decides it's high time that she brought him to justice. Thriller, with Kelsey Grammer, Markie Post, Corbin Bernsen and Don Swayze. Directed by William A. Graham (T) (81702453)

10.50 Metinda's Big Night in Destree and Brendan Fraser drop in for a chat 11.30 UK Raw A look an Iraqi transsexual's bid

to take control of a football team (6/10) 12.00 Live NHL ice Hockey New York

Rangers at Florida Panthers. Full coverage of the vital Eastern Conference clash (66227903) 4.40am The Movie Chart Show The latest film news (r) (92780941)

5.05 Move On Up (r) (32502293) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8319545)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

SKY ONE

7.00em Court Ductote (67989) 7.30 The Chris Evens Breadant Strow (60618) 8.30 Holywood Squares (30788) 9.00 Selly Jessy Rephael (40873) 10.00 The Opreh Whrtey Strow (75905) 11.00 Gelly (65144) 12.00 Jenny Jones (71621) 1.000 Med About You (56986) 1.30 Jeopardy (58057) 2.00 Selly Jessy Rephael (52398) 3.00 Jenny Jones (68089) 4.00 Guitty (68057) 2.00 Selly Jessy Rephael (52398) 3.00 Jenny Jones (68089) 4.00 Guitty (68057) 5.00 Ster Tiet: Vopaget (3085) 6.00 America's Dumbest Chrismalia (7927) 8.30 Frencis (8279) 7.00 The Simpson's (7724) 7.30 The Simpson's (763) 8.00 Mortal kombat: Conquest (2908) 9.00 The X Files (77704) 10.00 Mem Uncoverad (58801) 11.00 Friends (99453) 11.30 Ster Treit: Voyaget (45540) 12.30am The Commits his 2339) 1.30 Long Phy (8828423) SKY BOX OFFICE

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Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any firm relephone 0890 600888 SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) How to be a Player (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Settags (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) Jackie Brown (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) SKY PREMIER

SNT F791-2011-17
8.00 Earger Than Life (1995) (35822)
19.00 Speed II: Cruise Control (1997)
(45057163) 12.05 Jithers (1997) (194182)
2.00 The Men Who Capitand Eichrussen
(1996) (29453) 4.00 The Th Soldier
(1996) (63794250) 7.30 The Earry Norman
Interview Fichard Attentionus — Both
Scris of the Camera (4683) 8.00 Speed II:
Cruise Control (1997) (10434) 14.00
Conspirate Theory (1997) (85506095) Conspiracy Theory (1997) (85906096) 12.20em Beckdreft (1991) (92122086) 2.40 Mistrial (1996) (914039) 4.15 The Man Who Ceptured Eichmann (1996)

© For further listings see Saturday's Vision (1996) 24786) 11.00 Vanlating Point (1996) 24786) 11.00 Vanlating Point (1996) 24786) 11.00 Vanlating Point (1996) 24081 1.00 Move Magic Twet and Shout (1997) 2.00 Saty Lessy Raphael (40873) 10.00 The Open (1998) 1.30 Femme Patales: Mag Ryan (1998) 1.30 Femme Patales: Mag Ryan (1998) 1.30 Femme Patales: Mag Ryan (1998) 1.30 Femme (1998) 1.30 F

SKY CINEMA 4.00pm Diplometic Courier (1952) (7734279) 6.00 None But the Londy-Heart (1943) (2137328) 8.00 Rebel Without a Cause (1965) (2137373) 10.00 Hang 'Em High (1968) (4854583) 11.55 Under the Volcano (1984) (443434) 1.50em The Magas (1969) (289669) 3.80 On Dangerous Ground (1951)

FILMFOUR 6.00pm Nefly and M Armud (1995) (4752502) 8.00 Kms (1970) (63310415) 9.55 Rms (1985) (6526969) 12.35am Bonfitr of the Vanities (1990) (60368283) 2.40 Augule and Intects (1995) (2024449) 4.35 Typically British (7821962) 8.00 Crose

9.00pm Alex in Wonderland (1979) 53364347) 11.15 The Power (1965) (74868569) 1.15am Ring of Fire (1961) (45070632) 3.00 Alex in Wonderland (1970) (17838670) 5.00 Close SKY SPORTS 1

SKY SPOKTS 1
7.00am Sports Centre 7.35 World Wresting Federation: Live Wire 8.15 You're On Sky Sports 9.00 Racing News 9.30 Aerobics Oz Skyle 10.00 Got 11.00 Rugby League 4.00 Recipits Sports 12.00pm Premier Sports Scotts Footbal 4.00 Bosting Superbous 5.00 World Wresting Federation: Shotgun 8.00 Sports Centre 6.30 World Pool League 7.30 Live Footbal 18.00 Sports Centre 10.15 You're On Sky Sports 11.00 World Pool League 7.20 Live Footbal 15.00 Footbal 12.15eas You're On Sky Sports 11.00 Footbal 3.00 Rugby League 7.200 Sports Centre 12.15eas You're On Sky Sports 11.00 Footbal 3.00 Rugby League 7.00 World 1.00 Footbal 3.00 Rugby League 7.00 World 1.00 Footbal 3.00 Rugby League 7.00 World 1.00 Footbal 3.00 Rugby League 7.00 World 4.30 Sports Centre 4.45 Close

7.00em Aerobics Oz. Style 7.30 Sports Cerue 7.45 Racing News 8.15 Fastrat 8.45 Sports Cerue 9.00 Fash TV 10.00 Inside Scottish Football 11.00 Women's Golf 1.00 Golf Edra 4.00 Premier Shooker Legue 8.00 Watersports World 7.00 Got Legue 8.00 Watersports World 7.00 Got Extre 10.00 Europeán Tour Goll Weekly 10.30 Vatersports World T1.30 Austrakiy Rally Champtonship 12.00 Ringalde 1.30am World Pool League 2.30 Sports Control 34 Class Centre 2.45 Clos

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am World Winstling Federators Shotgun 1.00pm Fish TV 2.00 Telee from the Premiership 2.00 Boding Superbounds 3.00 - Wales 4.00 World's Golf Subo European: Tour Golf Weeldy 6.30 European Tour Golf Weeldy 6.30 European World 3.30 Rangside 10.00 FA Cup Final Classics 11:30 Closs EUROSPORT_

7,30eth Refly 8,00 Figure Sketing 9,30 Strumping 11,00 Refly 11,30 Motocross 12,00 Tennis 12,30pm US Got 1,30 Live Figure Sketing 4,30 Tennis 5,30 Live Figure Sketing 8,15 Tennis 10,00 Women's Tennis 11,30 Refly 12,00 Motocross UK GOLD

7.00mm Crossroads 7.30 Neighbours 7.55 EastEnders 8.30 The 84 8.06 The 811 9.30 Pride and Prejudies 10.30 Rhoda 11.00 Dales 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Bugs 2.00-Dales 2.55 The 84 3.25 The 81 3.55 EastEnders 4.30 Phode 3.00 All Creatures Great and Small 6.00 Dynesty 7.00 Ever Decreasing Circles 7.40 Dad's Army 8.20 The British Empire 9.00 Circle Foot in the Grave 8.40 Catherine Cookson's The Man Who Cried 11.20 The 88 11.85 The Bill 12.25am Stient Witness 2.10 Beet of the Old Grey Whietle Yest 2.25 Scopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS 6.0dem Within These Wints 7.00 Holding the Fort 7.30 The Odd Couple 9.00 Fernilies 8.30 Mind Your Language 9.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.30 Entmendals Farm 10.00 Upsites, Downstain 11.00 The Gentle Touch 12.00 Classic Coronation Street 12.30pm. Entmendals Farm 1.00 Mind Your Language 1.30 Me and My Girl 2.00 Upsiters, Downstains 3.00 The Love Boot 4.00 The Professionals 5.00 Hart to



Hert 6.00 Emmerdale Farm 6.30 Classic Coronation Street 7.00 The Professionals 8.00 Benny Hill Show 9.00 The Sweeney 10.00 Hate and Page 10.30 Wheetlacon and Sturings' Sceni Club 11.00 Close CARLTON SELECT 5.00pm What's Cooking? 5.30 Gridock 6.00 My Two Wives 6.30 Cur House 7.00

Shife Ch., Harvey Moon 8,30 Chos. In 3-1 Jelims 8,30 Superchels 9,90 Head Over Heels 10,40 Pe in he Sky 11,00 HB Smet Blues 12,00 My Two Wives 12,30em Gridlock 1,00 Close DISNEY CHANNEL 6.00am Gummi Beam 6.25 Classic Tooms 6.35 Tale Spin 7.00 Classic Toons 7.19 Alauch 7.35 101 Dalmelane 8.09 God Troop 8.25 Classic Toons 8.45 New Adventures of Winne the Pools 9.00 The Advanture of Spot 9.05 Animal Shelf 9.15 Pocket Dragons 9.30 Seer in the Big Blue House 9.35 The Topthonum Family 10.00 Big Star 10.10 Rose and Jim 10.30 The Big Genega 10.45 PB and J Otter 11.00 Sessare Street 12.00 The Advantures of

Spot 12.05pm Annual Shall 12.15 Pocket Dragons 12.20 Bear in the Big Blue House 12.55 The Toothbrush Family 1,00 Site Sice 1.10 Rose and Jim 1.20 The Big Gazage 1.45 PB and J Clair 2.00 New Advertures of Wirnic the Pool 2.30 Cusck Pack 3.00 The Latie Mormaid 2.30 Art Attack 4.00 101 Delmistans 4.30 Marcules The TV Show 5.00 Roses 6.15 Pepper Am 6.20 Smeth Guy 6.00 Teen Angel 6.30 Boy Meets World 7.00 Fil M: Mr Heedmistress (TVM 1998) 8.30 Honey I Shrunk the Kide: The TV Show 9.15 Discosaute 10.00 Home Improvement 10.30 The Wonder Years 11.00 Touched by an Angel 12.00 Clase FOX KIDS NETWORK

8.00mm Advertures, of Dodo 8.05 Power Pangers Turbo 6.30 Power Rangers Turbo 6.55 Spiderman 7.26 Oggy and the Cocketactes 7.30 Donley Rong Country 8.00 Haro Turber The Next Autason 8.25 The Incredible Hult: 8.50 Iron Men 9.15 Partissés Pour 9.40 3-44en 18.05 Casper 18.30 Oggy and the Cockroaches 16.35 EeldSkewagersa 11.05 Bobby's World

12.05pm Derrus and Grasher 12.20 Donkey Kong County 1.00 Mongs The New Adventures of Jungle 9004 1.25 Ace Venture 1.55 The Incredible Huk 2.20 (cm Man 2.45 Fartisetic Four 3.10 X-Men 3.30 X-Press 3.35 Spideman 4.90 Goosebum ps 4.25 Herb Turfles: The Next Muselon 4.50 Casper 5.00 Dermis and Grasher 5.30 Ace Venture 6.00 Donkey Kong County 6.30 EpidStravegorus 6.55 Oggy and the Cockrothers 7.00 Close Manufact ADECAM NICKELODEON

ACCRELODIEON

8.00am Rocio's Modern Life 8.30 Bruno
the kid 7.06 Cellog 7.30 Pugrate 8.00 The
Wild Thomberrys 8.30 Anhur 9.00
Children's BBC 10.00 Winze's House
10.30 Papa Beaver Stories 11.00 Tho
Mage School Bus 11.30 PB BearBurge
the tizze Helscopted/animal Anticoffsamiy
Ness 12.00 Fugrats 12.30pm Bue's Clues
1.00 Bananas at Pycmas 1.30 Lible Bear
Stories 2.00 Paciforgion Bear/Lizze's
Library/Portland BillAir Men 2.30 Children's
BBC 3.00 Children's BBC 3.30 Doug 4.00
Three Friends and Jeny 4.30 Rugeats 5.00
Sister Sister 5.30 Kerren and Kel 6.00
Renford Rejects 8.30 Moestrs 7.00 Close
REAMYO BRAVO

8.00pm Martel Law 9.00 Extreme Champonship Weesling 9.30 Copc 10.00 The Late Lounge 10.30 Erroic Contessons 11.00 FRUK: Jack's Back (1989) 1.00em Erotc Confessors 1.30 The Late Lounge 9.00 Martel Law 3.00 FILM: Sciesors (1991) 5.00 Eareme Cherrocasho Westing 5.30 Cops 5.80 Cops PARAMOUNT COMEDY 7.00pm Jonny 7.30 Grane Under Fie 8.00 Ellen 8.30 Spin City 9.00 Drop the Dead Dorrley 9.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway 10.00 Faser 10.30 Cherry 11.00 Seinleid 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show 12.00 Late

Night with David Letterman 1.00am Taxl

1.30 Frontine 2.90 Dr Katz 2.30 Tibs and Fibs. 3.00 Nightstand 3.30 Abbott and Costallo 4.00 Close THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE Spin-MIDNIGHT ONLY 7.30am Bioomberg Information Television 8.00 Signings 9.00 Beniester Gelectica 10.00 Ousnium Leap 11.00 Dark Shadows 11.30 The Pay Biadbuy Thesinv 12.00 The Twilight Zone 1.00pm Tales of the Unexpected 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected

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2.00 Amazing Signes 2.30 Myslenes, Magic and Miracles 3.00 Bettlester Galacata 4.00 The Incredible Hulk 5.00 Sightings 6.00 Time Tear 7.00 Cuentum Leap 8.00 VR5 9.00 Leav 10.00 PE.M: Choeffursters 8 (1960) 13.00 PEI Factor Choedusters II (1994) 12.00 PSI Factor Chrondes of the Paranormal 1.00em PILM: Steeping Dogs (1997) 3.00 Dark Shadows 3.30 Dark Shadows 4.00 Close HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Yoday's Gournel 6.36 Yan Can Cook. The Best of Asia 7.00 Homemeker Cook. The Best of Assa 7.00 Homerneker 7.30 Penod Rooms 8.00 Wedding Story 8.30 A Baby Story 9.00 Simply Painting 9.30 The Great Gardening Piol 10.00 Instant Gardens 10.30 Two's Country Cooking 11.00 The Dicerson 11.25 The Home and Lessure House 11.30 Rex Hurt Fazing Adventures 12.00 Our House Down Under 12.30 pm Arsques Trail 1.00 Our House 1.30 Home Sany 2.00 New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Again with Bob Vita 3.00 Tins Old House with Sievé and Norm 2.30 Charle West Fishing DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hurt Fishing Adventures 4.30 The Car Show 5.00 Hitler-Stalin Dangerous Lessons 6.00 Wildlife SOS 6.30 Unterned Alrica 7.30 Futureworld 6.00 Arthur C Carle's Mysterious Wood 8.30 Creatures Fantasic 9.00 Allante 10.00 The History of Witting 11.00 Forbidden Places 12.00 Mysteries of the Ancient Ones 1,00am Hiter-Stafin Dangerous Leasons 2,00 Close ANIMAL PLANET

12.00cm The New Adventures of Black Beauty 12.30pm Hoffwood Safar 1.30 Crocodile Hunter 2.00 All-Bird TV 2.30 HumaniNature 2.30 Harry 6 Practice 4.00 Jack Hermas 2.00 Life 4.30 Ammel Doctor 5.00 Pet Rescue 5.30 Cocodile Hunter 6.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 6.30 Laser 7.00 Rediscovery of the World 8.00 Ammel Doctor 8.30 Horse Tales 9.00 Going Wild 9.30 Emergency Vets 10.00 Crocodile Hunter 10.30 Crocodile Hunter 10.30 Crocodile Hunter 11.30 Emergency Vets 11.00 Crocodile Hunter 11.30 Emergency Veta 11.00 Widtle ER 11,30 Emergency Value

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7.00pm New Fox in Town 7.30 Journey Through the Underworld 8.00 Sunwal of the Apps 9.00 The Art of the Warner 19.00 Water Blasters 10.30 Rubbash Police 11.00 On the Edge Sunwal on the Ico 12.00

4.00pm D-Day. Total Story Breakout 5.00 Classic Cars. Jeep 6.00 The Greatest Phareohs. In the Image of God 7.00 Rockets The Vengeance Weapon CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily 9.30 Coxon's Nichen Cotege 10.00 From the Cound Up 10.30 Frst Taste 11.00 Wornal Thompson Cooks 11.30 Ideal Home Cooks 12.00 Food Network Daily 12.30pm A Year at Beilymaice 1.00 Coxon's Idoben College 1.30 The Cookshop 2.00 Minduis's Indian Nichen 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Ideal's Indian Nichen 2.30 The Cookshop 2.00 Minduis's Indian Nichen 2.30 The Cookshop 2.00 Minduis's Indian Nichen 2.30 The Cookshop 2.00 Minduis's Indian Nichen 2.30 The Cookshop 2.30 The Cooks Loyd's Louisema 3.30 Ideal Home Cooks 4.60 Thoroughly Modern British 4.30 Ches Bruno 5.00 Close LIVING

5.00am Tiny and Crew 5.20 10 Ptus 2 6.40 8.00em Tiny and Crew 5.20 10 Ptus 2 8.40 Greedysaurus and the Gang 8.45 Philbert the Frog 6.50 Police Dox Storts 7.00 Processor Bubble 7.30 Callou 7.35 Bug Alert 7.55 Practical Parenting 8.00 Benney and Friends 8.25 Babaloos 8.30 Tiny Tales 8.35 Tiny and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 9.00 Special Sables 9.30 The Roseener Show 10.00 Processor Support 10.00 Processo Babes 9.30 The Rosenner Show 10.00 the Jerry Springer Show 10.50 Maury Povich 11.40 Brookside 12.10pm Through the Keyhole 12.40 Riscupe 311 1.10 Beyond Belief Fact in Fiction 1.40 Maury Povich 2.36 Special Babes 3.00 The Living Room 3.50 Michael Cole 4.40 Through the Keyhole 5.10 The Heet Is On 5.40 Poady, Sleady, Cook 6.16 The Jerry Springer Show 7.06 Riscupe 917.35 Annel Riscupe 8.00 Tab Cood to be June 17.44. LA Law 9.00 Too Good to be Irun (TVM 1998) 11.00 The Sex Files II 12.00 Close ZEE TV

5.30am Hey He Ho 6.00 Our and About 6.30 Youtle-Ae-Oo 7.00 Fath: Christen 7.30 News 8.00 India Business Report 8.30 7.378 9.00 Fastley The Love Stories 10.00 Sofia 11.00 Archiene 11.30 Perampera 3,00pm Zoo Bengle 3.30 Hum Pageth 4,00 Akber Birbel 4.30 Ek Minute 5.00 Jungle Book 5.30 Mausam 6.00 Top of the Tops 6.30 Banes April 83.01 10p of the Tops 6.30 Banes April 83.01 Do Best Ban Jaye 7.30 It's My Choice 8.00 News 8.30 Amaria 8.00 Urdu Drame 16.00 Me Palika 10.30 Woh 11.30 Purusherra 12.00 News 12.30cm Yehr He, Zndags 1.00 Bengla TV 1.30 Parvarian 2.00 Film!



RACING 43

Gold Cup hero Go Ballistic out of National

SP()R7

MOTOR RALLYING 46

Tenacious McRae holds on to lead in Portugal



WEDNESDAY MARCH 24 1999

Injury problems fail to dampen the enthusiasm of England coach

Keegan remains positive

By Oliver Holt FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN KEEGAN was smiling, always smiling. Never mind the injury list, he said. Never mind that the centre of the England midfield has started to look like a dust bowl and the forward line has been cut down like Custer's cavalry on the Little Bighorn. The England coach kept on grin-

ning.

He told an anecdote about one of his Fulham players observing that necessity was the mother of all evil. "He didn't get any marks for that." Keegan said. "Necessity is the mother of invention. You might think it is looking a bit thin but I see it in a different

way."

By the end of it all, the Polish journalists who had come to the England hotel at Burnham Beeches expecting a sob story, a lament for the fading hopes of Michael Owen, were beginning to look rather downcast and Keegan was saying that he felt as excit-ed as "a kid in a toy shop".

Managing nicely....Interface Sherwood takes stage......44 Brown rings changes. Simon Barnes.....

Keegan may not have taken charge of a competitive game yet, but he knows how to get his players in the right frame of mind for one. They have not kicked a ball but, so far, he has done everything as smoothly and as seamlessly as everyone imagined he would.

If his predecessor, Glenn Hoddle, could make a crisis out of a broken fingernail. Keegan breathed spirit into his squad by shrugging off the worries surrounding Owen, Chris Sutton, Darren Anderton and Robbie Fowler and insisting that one man's misfortune would be another's

opportunity.
He said he would have no qualms about playing Tim Sherwood and Ray Parlour, who are untested at this level, in the make-or-break European championship qualifying tie against Poland on Saturday. We could expect thrills, and probably a few spills, he said, because he knew no

TIMES



Keegan makes his point forcibly to a group of England players during the training session at Bisham Abbey yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Roufledge

other way. "This sort of injury thing has happened to other England managers," he said. "Why should I get away with it? I still think the squad is

play, it is an opportunity for

TWO

looking very, very good, in my true optimistic fashion. "I look at any problem as an opportunity for somebody else. If Michael Owen does not

> here but we are not in an ideal The atmosphere at Keegan's first public training session at Bisham Abbey a few hours earlier had been predictably relaxed and light-hearted. Keegan joined in the practice march, but unlike Hoddle, who always seemed intent on competing as an equal, the new manager did not take himself quite so seriously.

Boxing Organisation (WBO) heavyweight champion, gave his friends and admirers a

somebody else. That is simply

the way you have to look at it. I

have got Andy Cole and Alan

Shearer left and people are

saying I am down to the bare

bones. They are not bad bare

exactly who is fit and I will be

able to pick a fantastic Eng-

land side from that. It could be

an opportunity for someone

that turns out to be the best

thing to have happened in this

country. We are not in a crisis

"By Thursday, I will know

He smiled when he was fooled by one sweetly executed drag-back turn from Stephen Gerrard, the Liverpool youngster who has been invited to train with the squad this week. He exulted when a voiley by Paul Scholes lodged in the stanchion. "Trevor Brooking

in the Nep Stadium," he said. When he was not taking part, Keegan worked with the players in groups of two, talking to them intently and working on their touch, juggling the ball with Rio Ferdinand and Ray Parlour, then with Phil Neville and Graeme Le Saux. He did not give away many clues about the line-up, but he

gave warning that David Beckham and Parlour could both be in the starting XI. It is also possible, though, that he will want to perservere with Beckham wide on the

right, allowing Scholes to part-

ner Sherwood in the middle

with McManaman on the left. The spirit of adventure, after all, is nothing new to him.

"At Newcastle," he said, "I just found myself with the kind of players who, if I asked them to defend, we would have finished fifth bottom of the league and people would have said that was good.

"Because I asked them to go forward and we lost the championship, people said it was disastrous. I am a very positive person. I was a forward and my strengths are in going that way.

"You get a coach of any team and he will start in his strength. We have all got our strengths and weaknesses. I tend to leave the set-pieces and the defensive work to some of the people who are better qualified to do it than I am. That is just an admission that someone else can do it better." Before he left, he finished in the same upbeat, jaunty man-ner in which he had begun. This time, Alan Shearer, his captain, was the object of a ringing endorsement and a touch of jovial envy.

"I have got no qualms about Alan Shearer," Keegan said. "He has got a real strong character. You can't knock him but if you do it is at your peril because he is likely to bounce back and prove you

That is what great players do. They keep doing it, week in, week out. They get criticised for being just good because people are used to them being exceptionally good or brilliant. I know him, I know what I am going to get from him. People have even asked me if he needs cheering up. Well, I cheered him up yesterday when I missed a threefoot putt on the 17th. He was doing cartwheels."

Lloyd leaving after the World Cup

By JOHN STERN

DAVID LLOYD is to step down from his post as England coach after the World Cup in June. Lloyd's decision, first disclosed in The Times on Boxing Day, comes five days before he and a 15-man England squad travel to Lahore and then Sharjah for a pre-World Cup triangular series against India and Pakistan. It was always his intention to leave after the World Cup, but privately he has felt that support for him at the England and Wales Cricket Board

strained since last August when he was reprimanded for his comments about the bowling action of Muttah Murabitharan, the Sri Lanka off spinner, who took 16

(ECB) has ebbed away.

England wickets at the Oval. Lloyd, 52, whose contract was not due to expire until after the four-match Test series against New Zealand in July and August, has had a number of meetings with Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the ECB chairman, and Simon Pack, the international teams director, over the past fortnight. He sought assurances about his future, which the ECB could not offer, but his departure was concluded in entirely amicable circumaccording to a statement from the board

yesterday morning.
Lloyd, who has been approached by television companies to begin his career as a commentator again, said: "I had to think of safeguarding my own future and I was anxious to avoid speculation during the World Cup and distracting the team. I've had a tremendous time and I look forward to completing my tenure with a successful World Cup campaign."

Before becoming England coach at the start of the 1996 eason, he was a regular and popular member of BBC Radio's Test Match Special team and may now be offered a role with Sky Sports or Chan-

Despite a patchy record, he has remained popular with and respected by the players. He guided England to their first win in a five-Test series for 12 years against South Africa last summer. Alec Stewart. the England captain, said: "It's disappointing news, but

it's been a pleasure to work

with 'Bumble', a coach who is

thorough, loyal to his players and completely professional. He has brought passion to the job and it would be great to reward him with the World Cup as a final vote of thanks from the players.

Lloyd can also be credited with dragging the preparations and training of England teams out of the dark ages with his emphasis on fitness consultants and other specialist coaches. "We owe David a huge debt," MacLaurin said. During his time, he has introduced many innovations which mean that we are now world leaders in several aspects of our approach to the game at international level."

Lloyd's passion for the game, though, has landed him into trouble with the ECB on more than one occasion. In addition to the Muralitharan comments last summer, he



Lloyd: popular

was censured for saying, after a drawn Test in Zimbabwe three winters ago, that "we flippin' murdered 'em''.

On the winter tour to Australia, Lloyd was heard less and less publicly as Graham Gooch, the tour manager and a selector, tended to take much of the media responsibility.

The obvious candidate to replace Lloyd would be Bob Woolmer, whose position as coach of South Africa also terminates after the World Cup. However, Woolmer, who has had great success with both South Africa and, before, Warwickshire, has often said that he would not be interested in another international coaching job. Gooch and Mike Gatting, another selector, will also be in the frame, although the ECB may look overseas.

Moody called up, page 42

Hide survives the hard knocks before facing title challenge

No 1673

ACROSS | Round-top loaf (7) 5 Love god (5) 8 (Cook in) vapour (5) 9 Makes up (7) 10 Deformed (9) 12 Nocturnal bird (3)

13 Maximum (6) 14 One hung with bloom along the bough (Housman) (6) 17 Uncultured youth (3) 18 Mundane, everyday (9) 20 Unusual: for particular pur-

pose (7) 21 Kashmir river (5) 23 Cut of beef (5) 24 Period of George III's incapacity (7)

15 Glacis 17 Irving 19 Naomi

SOLUTION TO NO 1672 ACROSS: 2 Constant 6 Poncho 8 Terror 9 Lenient 10 Value 12 Disclaimer 16 Dilettante 18 Loner 20 Bristle 21 Cookie 22 Sesame 23 Shingles DOWN: 1 Coterie 2 Cornwall 3 Sleeve 4 April 5 Turret 7 Coincide 11 Arkansas 13 Mattress 14 Ptolemy

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scare three weeks ago when he was sent to the canvas of his Norwich gym by Danny Williams, of Brixton, a sparring partner. Hide was training for the defence of his title against Orlin Norris, of the 1 Twig broom (5) 2 Bravo! (Sp.) (3) United States, at the Albert 3 Elvis's home town (7) 4 Cooking instructions (6)

Hall on April 3.

While it might have appeared to be a setback in his 5 Unsullied (5) preparations for the contest. 6 Perfumed mixture: medley (3-6) 7 Exhibition (7) Frank Warren, Hide's promoter and Williams's manager, made light of the incident, 11 A long note (9) claiming that it was nothing more than a momentary prob-13 Bloom its hero (Joyce) (7) 15 Calling: dropping stones (7) 16 Type of monkey: one crying iem. When I rang Warten yesloudly (6) terday to confirm the incident. 18 Rapid; intelligent (5) he said: "He [Williams] caught him [Hide]. He knocked him down on the 19 Unpleasant (5) 22 Spaniard: Russian river (3)

floor and he got straight up." Warren rejected with an emgestion that Hide had suffered something rather more than a flash knockdown. Immediately. Warren rang Williams and told him to explain what exactly had happened.

In a three-way conversation between Warren, Williams and myself, the boxer confirmed that the knockdown of the WBO champion was not a serious one. Williams said: "We sparred. I knocked Herbie down. His trainer came into the ring, got him up. He

Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, investigates a heavyweight concern

didn't do nothing more for that day. Then after that, the next day, we sparred again."

John Morris, the secretary of the British Boxing Board of

Control, has asked for a report on the matter from the gym. Even though Hide has suffered no after-effects from the punch, having continued with his training without further alarms, Morris said that he would be given an MRI scan before the contest. "It's in the normal course of events," Morris said. "Hide is due a

While it is no disgrace for a

champion in training to be put on the floor by a sparring partner, it happens to the best — including Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis, who was thrown to the floor twice by Jeremy Williams, his sparring partner, in the Pocono Mountains training camp before he met Evander Holyfield earlier this month -- Warren can breathe a sigh of relief that Hide did not suffer a worse setback, such as a knockout, a week later, inside 28 days of which could have put the title bout in jeopardy.



Hide, left, is put through his paces during training

gained his composure and poise in the 33 days between the incident and when he steps into the ring, will give Norris some of the same, but the incident will no doubt call into question Hide's boast about Lewis not being able to call himself the undisputed heavyweight champion while the Norwich man holds the

WBO title.

Hide said recently that neither Lewis nor Holyfield dethat neither had given of their best in their meeting in New York. He said at a recent press conference: "In any other weight class, they don't call themselves undisputed champion unless they have the four belts — that means the WBO belt as well. Lewis did not give his all and got what he de-served. Holyfield's gone and so too is Lewis. He was so worried about Holyfield that he was frightened of his own shadow. There was no fix. Both were appalling. Lewis did not deserve to win."

Williams is an unranked heavyweight, but one with potential that could take him into the world ratings. He has an unbeaten record of 17 contests, is a knockout artist and will meet Julius Francis, the British heavyweight champion, on a bout on the undercard of Hide's contest with Norris.

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